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Characteristics of Food Stamp Households

Summer 1988

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CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Food and Nutrition Service has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of the most recent survey of about 11,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: to describe the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp households in the summer of 1988 and to examine changes in these circumstances since summer 1987.[1]

Slightly over 18.5 million people a month received food stamp benefits in the United States in the summer of 1988. At the time these data were gathered:

- About 94 percent of all food stamp households had a total gross income that was equal to or less than the official poverty guidelines; 37 percent were below half the poverty line.

- Almost 42 percent of all food stamp households also received benefits under Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Twenty percent had earned income. Over 20 percent of all households received Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits; nearly 20 percent received Supplemental Security Income.

- The average deduction from gross income was $211 per month. The most frequent deduction--other than the standard deduction available to every household--was for excess shelter costs, claimed by over 70 percent of all food stamp households.

- The average monthly food stamp benefit was $127 per household or $49 per person.

- Over 18 percent of all food stamp households had no net income after taking the allowable deductions from gross income, and thus received the maximum allowable benefit.

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[1]For this 1988 report (as for the 1987 report), summer refers to the average of data for July and August.

- When food stamp benefits were counted along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below half the poverty line fell from 37 percent to 13 percent.

- The average food stamp household included 2.6 people, but there was substantial variation among different household types. For instance, an average of 3.8 people constituted a household where school-age children were present, while households with elderly members averaged only 1.4 persons. Nearly 54 percent of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.

- Almost 76 percent of the heads of food stamp households were women.

- Over 50 percent of all the people participating in the Food Stamp Program were children (less than 18 years old). Another 8 percent were elderly (60 years old or older).

- About 19 percent of all food stamp households had at least one elderly member. Over 92 percent of all elderly participants lived alone or with one other person (usually elderly as well).

A comparison of survey data from summer 1987 with the results of the current survey shows that:

- Average monthly gross income increased from $426 per household in summer 1986 to $433 in summer of 1988.

- The percentage of households with gross income below half the poverty line fell from 39 percent to 37 percent.

- The average value of total deductions increased from $205 to $211, and average net income also increased from $239 to $242.

- The average monthly food stamp benefit increased from $120 per household to $127 per household.

INTRODUCTION

The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is a nationwide program that helps low-income families and individuals buy the foods they need to maintain a nutritious diet. This assistance is in the form of coupons that can be redeemed for food in authorized food stores, thus increasing the purchasing power of low-income households. The program is authorized by Congress, administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and operated by State welfare agencies and their local offices. During fiscal year 1988, in an average month, about 18.7 million people received food stamp benefits at a total annual program cost of $12.3 billion.

Since food stamp benefits add to the resources available to low-income households, the FSP can be considered part of the Federal income maintenance system. It is distinct from other income maintenance programs in two important ways. First, it is designed to provide nutritional assistance to low-income households. Thus, program benefits--the food stamps--can be used only to buy food. Second, the program is distinguished by the absence of categorical restrictions on eligibility and participation. Unlike Aid to Families with Dependent Children or Supplemental Security Income, for example, program eligibility is not limited to specific types of people (parents with dependent children, the elderly, or the disabled). Instead, the FSP is available to all who meet the income and resource standards set by Congress. Thus, program participants represent a broad spectrum of the low-income population.

FNS has conducted periodic surveys of food stamp households to determine the characteristics and circumstances of program beneficiaries. This report presents the results of a survey of 11,000 participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The report has two objectives: to describe the economic and demographic circumstances of food stamp participants in the summer of 1988 and to examine changes in these circumstances from summer 1987.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the structure, size, and economic context of the FSP in the summer of 1988. Chapter 2 describes summer 1988 food stamp household circumstances in some detail, while Chapter 3 looks at trends in household circumstances and caseload composition from 1987 to 1988 by comparing the summer 1987 sample with summer 1988. Appendix A presents an extensive set of detailed tabulations of household characteristics in the summer of 1988. The other appendixes to this report contain supplemental tables, a brief description of the sample design, and a discussion on the sampling error of the estimates presented in this report.

CHAPTER 1: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The number and characteristics of households participating in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) vary somewhat over time. Several factors contribute to these variations. Legislative changes to eligibility requirements are partially responsible. The economic status of the Nation as well as underlying demographic trends may also affect the program's level of participation and characteristics of participating households. This chapter provides some background on the general circumstances of the FSP in the summer of 1988.

The chapter begins with an overview of program changes between the summer of 1987 and the summer of 1988 and a review of eligibility requirements. This is followed by a brief summary of total program participation and costs as well as economic conditions in fiscal year 1988.

Program Changes Since the Previous fiscal year

The FSP was affected by legislation implemented in fiscal year 1988. First, the Immigration Reform and Control Act allowed special agricultural workers in temporary resident status to apply for food stamps beginning June 1, 1987. Second, the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act made the following provisions: it allowed families with minor children living with either the parent's parents or siblings to form a separate household; it moved the income eligibility annual adjustments from July 1 to October 1 of each year; it increased the shelter deduction cap to $164; it excluded third-party housing assistance payments from income; and it expanded categories of households eligible for expedited services. Third, the Older Americans Act Amendments excluded Community Service Employment Program funds as income for food stamp purposes. Finally, the Charitable Assistance and Food Bank Act of 1987 exçluded charitable contributions up to $300 a quarter as income for food stamp purposes.

Program Eligibility Requirements

The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, defines the group of people who comprise a household for food stamp purposes and sets uniform criteria for their eligibility. These criteria include a gross and net income limit, a resource limit, and a variety of nonfinancial criteria. Each of these is discussed briefly below.

Income Eligibility Standards

To be eligible for food stamps, the gross monthly income of most households had to be at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines ($14,560 annually for a family of four), and their net income had to be at or below 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines ($11,200 annually for a family of four).[1] Households with an elderly or disabled member were subject only to the net income test described below. Gross income included all cash payments to the households with the exception of a few specific types excluded by law or regulation (such as loans, nonrecurring lump sum payments, and reimbursement of certain expenses). The following deductions were then subtracted from the household's gross monthly income to determine its net income:

- A standard deduction adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. The standard deduction was $102 in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia in the summer of 1988.

- An earned income deduction for working households equal to 20 percent of the combined earnings of household members.

- A dependent care deduction for the expenses involved in caring for children or other dependents while household members worked or sought employment. The maximum value which could be claimed under this deduction was capped at $160.

- An excess shelter deduction for those shelter costs (such as rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, property taxes, and insurance) that exceeded 50 percent of the household's income remaining after all other deductions were taken. The limit in the summer of 1988 for households living in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia was $164.[2] The limit is adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of living. Households with an elderly (age 60 or older) or disabled member were exempted from this limit: they were entitled to subtract the full value of all shelter

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[1]Income eligibility standards are updated every year. The figures supplied in this text were effective from July 1, 1987, through September 30, 1988, for all States and territories except Alaska and Hawaii, which have higher standards. See appendix C for the full array of monthly standards.

[2]Both the standard deduction and ceiling on the value of the excess shelter deductions in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands were adjusted to reflect price differences from the mainland. See appendix D for the value of each in the summer of 1988.

costs greater than 50 percent of their adjusted income.

- A special medical deduction limited to households with an elderly or disabled member. These households could deduct all medical costs exceeding $35 incurred by the elderly or disabled person. Medical expenses reimbursed by insurance or government programs were not deductible. If a household contained more than one disabled or elderly person, then it could deduct the combined medical expenses (for those disabled or elderly persons) that exceeded the elderly/disabled's initial $35 charge.

After subtracting these allowable deductions from gross income, the household's net income was then compared to a table of monthly income limits based on the official poverty guidelines. These guidelines vary by household size and are updated annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. The FSP income limits were adjusted in July 1987 to correspond to the most recent poverty guidelines. Because the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act moved the annual income eligibility adjustments to October 1, the July 1987 limits were still in effect. In the summer of 1988, a four-person family living in one of the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam, or the Virgin Islands could qualify for the program with a net monthly income of $934 and a gross monthly income of $1,214 or less.[3]

Resource Eligibility Standards

The value of a household's assets is also accounted for determining program eligibility. Most households were permitted up to $2,000 in countable resources. Households with at least one person age 60 or older were allowed up to $3,000. Countable resources included cash on hand and assets that could easily be converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. Assets also included nonliquid assets; however, the family home and lot, one family vehicle if under $4,500 in value, and tools of a trade and business property used in earning the family income were not counted in determining eligibility.

Nonfinancial Eligibility Standards

People could qualify for benefits only as part of a "food stamp household." The household consists of those persons whose income and resources are summed to determine program eligibility and benefits. Many means-tested assistance programs define the household in slightly different ways, largely to target benefits

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[3]Separate income limits were computed for Alaska and Hawaii. See appendix C for the full array for each household size.

to particular individuals such as the elderly or children.

In general terms, a food stamp household consisted of an individual who lived alone or who lived with others but usually purchased and prepared food separately; and groups of individuals who lived, purchased food, and prepared meals together. Individuals without minor children living with their siblings or parents under age 60 were considered as living in the same household as their siblings or parents regardless of their food preparation practices. Also, an individual 60 years or older (and spouse) who was unable to purchase and prepare meals due to a permanent disability may constitute a separate household provided such individual lived with others whose income did not exceed 165 percent of the poverty level. Some restrictions were placed on the participation of aliens, students, strikers, and residents of institutions. The income, resources, and deductible expenses of all persons in the food stamp household were counted to determine the household's eligibility for benefits.

The FSP included several provisions to encourage able-bodied participants to seek and hold jobs. With certain exceptions, physically and mentally fit food stamp participants had to register for and accept suitable employment. The exceptions to this work registration requirement included:

- people under 16 or over 59 years of age,
- people ages 16 and 17 who are not household heads or who are attending school,
- caretakers of dependent children less than 6 years old or incapacitated adults,
- people who were working at least 30 hours per week,
- people subject to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program's work requirements,
- people receiving unemployment compensation,
- people who are physically or mentally disabled,
- participants in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation programs, and
- students enrolled at least half-time.

As of April 1987, these work registrants were required to participate in State Employment and Training (E&T) programs. Exemptions were given to work registrants who were in their second or third trimester of pregnancy; were caring for a child if adequate child care was not available; had participated in the

FSP for 30 days or less; or were living in areas with high unemployment rates. Examples of activities that may be required of non exempt work registrants included job search or job search training; workfare or work experience, or vocational or non vocational education.

Furthermore, some applicant household heads were required to actively participate in job search while their applications were pending. Additionally, applicant households whose primary wage earner voluntarily quit a job without good cause were made ineligible for 90 days.

Benefit Computation

The maximum amount of food stamps a household could receive was equal to the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) in June 1987, adjusted for household size. The maximum allotments are revised periodically to reflect changes in the cost of foods included in the TFP. The maximum allotment for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia was $290 per month during fiscal year 1988.[4]

The food stamp benefit issued to each household was based on the number of people in the household and the amount of net income available after subtracting the allowable deductions. Monthly benefits were equal to the maximum coupon allotment for that household less 30 percent of its net income. Benefits were prorated to the date of application during the initial month of participation. All one- and two-person households that qualified for the program, however, were guaranteed a minimum benefit of at least $10 per month (except the initial month on the program).

FSP Participation and Costs

Participation in the FSP declined slightly between fiscal years 1981 and 1982. By late 1982, participation had begun to increase, reaching a historic high level of 22.6 million persons in March 1983. This peak was followed by a relatively steady decline in the number of food stamp recipients. With the exception of seasonal increases during winter months, this decrease in participation continued through September 1988, at which point 18.4 million persons were participating in the FSP

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[4]Separate plans were developed for selected outlying areas. The maximum coupon allotments for each household size in the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, and outlying areas are shown in appendix E.

(see fig. 1). This was the lowest level of participation in the 50 States and the District of Columbia since January 1980. Between fiscal years 1987 and 1988, the average monthly participation declined 2.1 percent from 19.1 to 18.7 million persons.

The maximum allotment for a family of four increased 7.0 percent, from $271 to $290, between the two fiscal years. Total Federal costs in fiscal year 1988 were $12.3 billion, of which $11.1 billion were issued in benefits. The amount of food stamp benefits issued in fiscal year 1988 increased by 0.6 percent, or $642 million from fiscal year 1987. Total program costs, including State administrative expenses, increased nearly $700 million from $11.7 billion in fiscal year 1987 to $12.4 billion in fiscal year 1988.

In the summer of 1988, the time period on which the remainder of this report focuses, average monthly program costs were about $1.01 billion, of which $909 million were in the form of benefits. Program data (excluding Guam and the Virgin Islands) indicate that per-person benefits in the summer of 1988 averaged $49.41.

An Overview of Economic Developments Through 1988

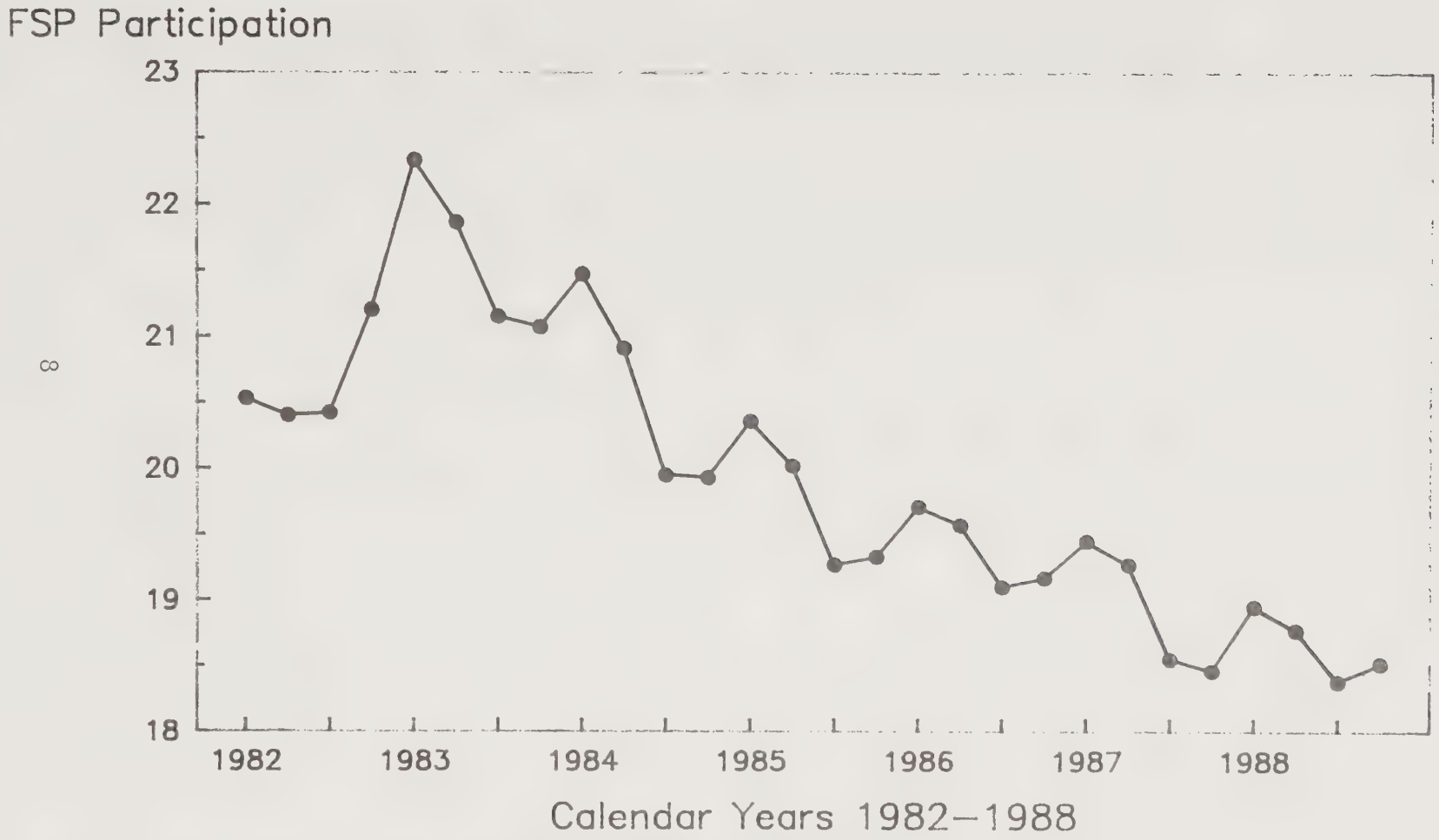
The recession, which began in 1981 and continued through early 1983, was followed by a very rapid, strong recovery beginning in late 1983 (see table 1). The unemployment rate declined from a high of 10.7 percent in November and December 1982 to 8.2 percent in December 1983. By the end of 1988, the unemployment rate had dropped to 5.2 percent (see fig. 2). The poverty rate increased from 1982 to 1983, but then declined from 15.2 percent in 1983 to 13.1 percent in 1988 (see table 1).

Inflation dropped significantly from 1982 to 1983 and continued to decline through 1986 (see table 1). The cost of the TFP for a family of four increased 3.5 percent from fiscal year 1987 to 1988 compared to an 11-percent increase from September 1979 to September 1980 and an average increase of 2.9 percent for 1982 through 1988.

FIGURE 1

FSP average monthly participation by individuals

Calendar years 1982–1988, by quarter (in millions)



Source: Food Stamp Program Keydata Reports

Note: Participation in Puerto Rico is excluded.

Table 1--Major economic indicators, calendar years 1982-1988
(average annual rates in percent)

Economic indicator	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Real GNP increase[a]	-2.5%	3.6%	6.8%	3.4%	2.7%	3.7%	4.4%
Productivity increase[b]	-0.7	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.3	1.2	1.7
Unemployment rate[c]	9.7	9.6	7.5	7.2	7.0	6.2	5.5
Inflation rate[d]	6.4	3.9	3.7	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.3
Interest rates[e]	13.8	12.0	12.7	11.4	9.0	9.4	9.7
Number of persons below 100 percent of poverty level (in thousands)	34,398	35,303	33,700	33,064	32,370	32,546	31,878
Percentage of total population	15.0%	15.2%	14.4%	14.0%	13.6%	13.4%	13.1%

[a] Percent change from preceding period, table C-2.

[b] Percent change in output per hour, nonfarm business sector, table C-47.

[c] All civilian workers, table C-39.

[d] Change in implicit price deflator for gross national product, table C-3.

[e] Corporate Aaa bond yield, table C-71.

Source for first five lines of data: Economic Report of the President, Washington, DC, February 1990.

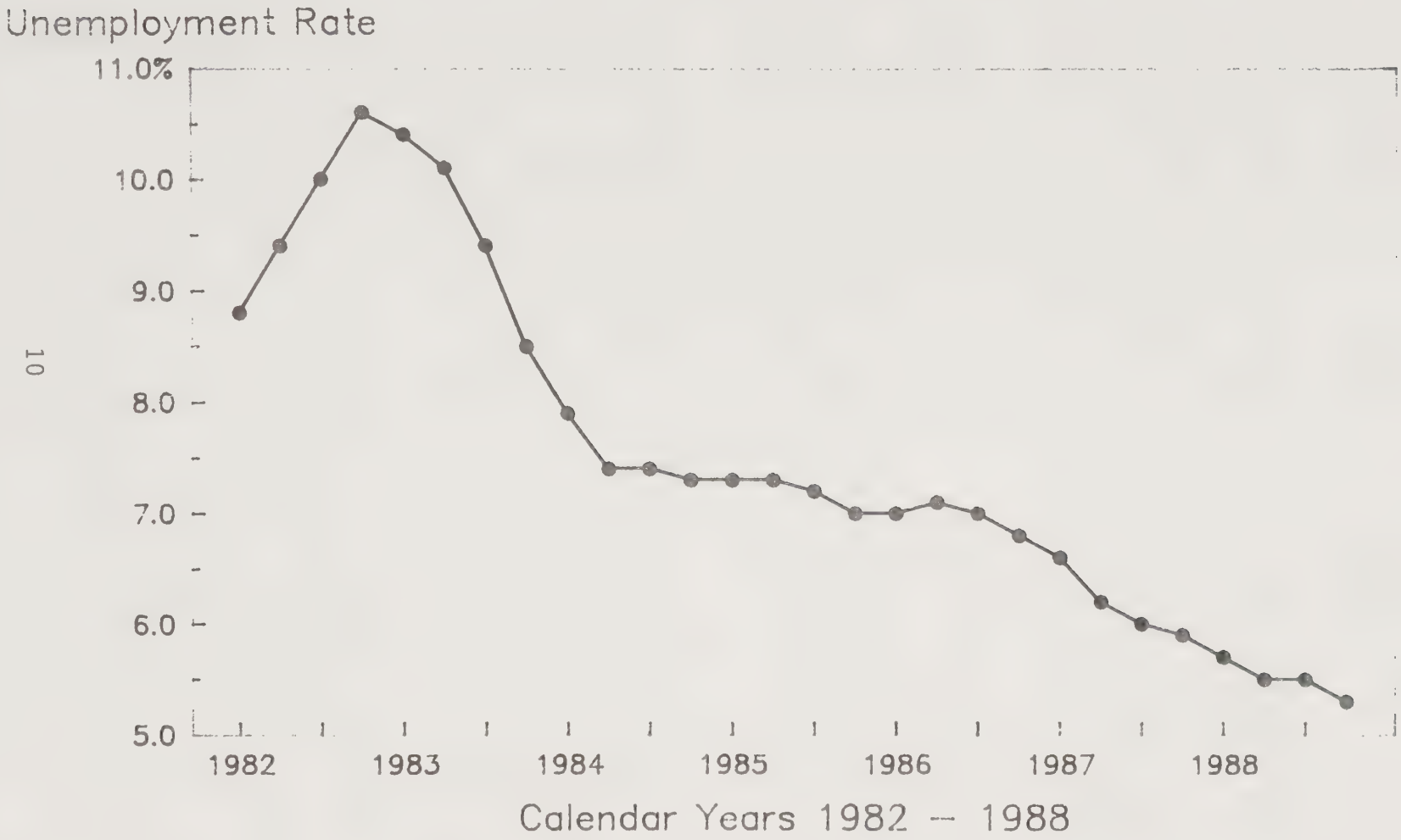
Source for last two lines of data: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 166, Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1988 (Advance Data from the March 1989 Current Population Survey), Washington, DC, 1989.

FIGURE 2

Unemployment rate for civilians

Calendar years 1982–199, by quarter

Data seasonally adjusted and averaged over qtrs



Source: 1984, 1988, and 1990
Economic Reports of the President

CHAPTER 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS

Slightly over 18.4 million people in over 7.0 million households received FSP benefits in the summer of 1988.[1] This chapter addresses basic questions about the characteristics of these households by looking at their income, deductions, benefits, assets, and household composition in some detail. The results presented here portray a cross-section of the program's caseload. Most of the information deals with characteristics of the entire food stamp household. In some cases, however, characteristics of individual participants are also presented. Additional information about each topic can be found in the detailed tabulations of appendix A.

Gross Monthly Income

The average gross income of all participating households in the 50 States and the District of Columbia was $433 per month.[2] Almost 7 percent reported no gross income in the summer of 1988; over 51 percent reported a monthly income of less than $400 (see fig. 3). Only 22 percent had a monthly gross income of $600 or more.

The distribution of gross income was heavily influenced by the large number of small households in the program. Almost 49 percent of all the households with income below $400 were single-person households. Over 77 percent of all single-person households had an income below $400, compared to under 17 percent of those with at least six members. There were several reasons for this pattern. The food stamp income eligibility limits vary with household size: small households become ineligible at lower incomes than large households. Transfer payments from other welfare programs also tend to increase with household size.

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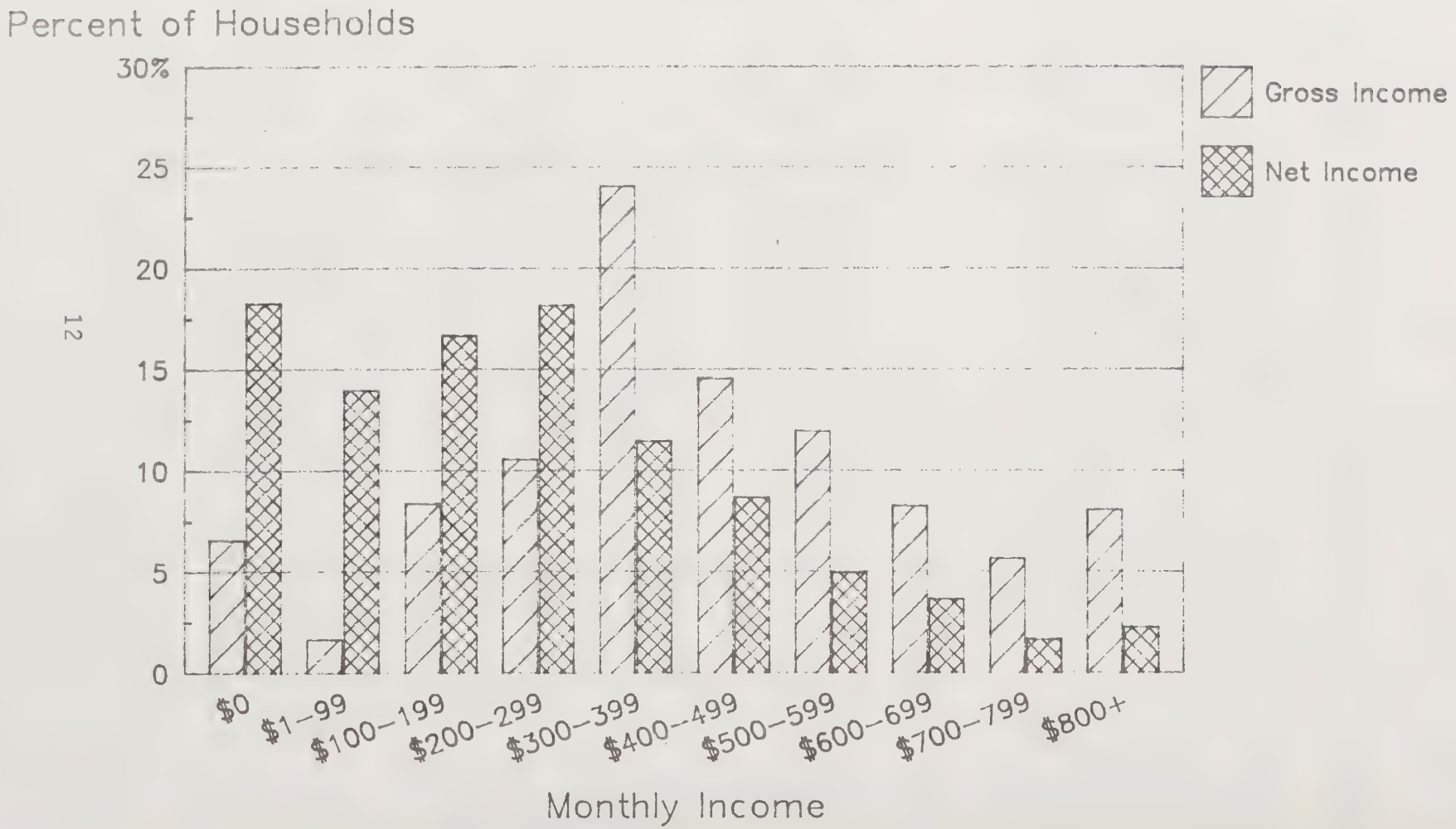
[1]The information reported here and in appendix A is limited to summer 1988 food stamp participants in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. There were an additional 32,000 participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico, which until July 1982 had participated in the FSP, served participants through its Nutritional Assistance Program, and the Northern Mariana Islands also participated in a block grant program.

[2]It should be noted that the statistics reported in this and subsequent sections are based on information recorded in food stamp casefiles by State eligibility workers. These figures have not been corrected for possible underreporting or nonreporting of income.

FIGURE 3

Distribution of food stamp households
by monthly gross and net incomes
summer 1988



Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Program
Quality Control Sample

One way to account for the influence of household size on gross income is to examine the status of food stamp households with respect to the official definition of poverty.[3] As shown in table 2, about 92 percent of all food stamp households had total income that was less than or equal to the poverty line. This includes about 37 percent who had total income at or below half the poverty guidelines.

Net Monthly Income

A household's net income was determined by subtracting the standard, earned income, dependent care, medical, and excess shelter expense from its gross monthly income. The level of net income then determined the household's eligibility and monthly benefit. Average net income was $242 per month in the summer of 1988. Over 18 percent of all households had no net income after subtracting the allowable deductions from their gross income. These households received the maximum coupon allotment. Almost seven out of 10 participating households had net income less than $300 per month and over 92 percent had net income under $600 a month.

Sources of Income

As table 3 shows, a large number of food stamp households also received cash benefits from at least one of the major income transfer programs (AFDC, Social Security, and SSI). At the same time, there was a substantial number of households that supplemented limited earnings with food stamp benefits. About 80 percent of all households had income from at least one

---

[3]As noted above, the definition of poverty is adjusted for household size. The poverty guidelines used by the FSP in the summer of 1988 are shown in appendix B. A word of caution is in order when comparisons are made to the poverty population defined by the Bureau of the Census. Census counts households as poor if their annual cash income falls below the poverty guidelines. In contrast, households were eligible for food stamps if their monthly cash income fell below the program's income limits. Since household income may vary from month to month, a household may be eligible for food stamps in one month but ineligible the next. Therefore, some households eligible for food stamps for one or more months may have annual incomes above the poverty line. On the other hand, households with assets worth more than the food stamp asset limit could be ineligible for food stamps in any month, although their monthly and annual incomes are well below the poverty guideline.

Table 2--Poverty status of food stamp households, summer 1988

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Percent of all households	Cumulative percent[a]
50% or less	37.0	37.0
51 to 100	55.1	92.1
101 to 130	7.5	99.6
131 or more	0.4	100.0
Number of households (in thousands)	7,015	

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 3--Major sources of income among food stamp households, summer 1988
(numbers in thousands)

Source of income	Food stamp households	
	Number	Percent[a]
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	2,912	41.5
Earnings[b]	1,401	20.0
Social Security and Railroad Retirement	1,426	20.3
Supplemental Security Income	1,367	19.5
Total	7,015	

[a]The sums of individual income sources do not add to totals because households can receive income from more than one source.

[b]Includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

of these sources.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children

Almost 42 percent of all food stamp households received AFDC benefits. On average, these households supplemented $88 from other sources with a $391 AFDC payment, for a total gross income of $479 per month. Almost 90 percent of these households, however, had no income other than the AFDC grant.

Earned Income

About 20 percent of all food stamp households reported earned income from some source. Households with earned income were generally larger and had substantially higher income than nonearners. The average household size for those with earnings was 3.7 people compared to 2.4 people for other households. For these households, average earnings amounted to $535 out of an average gross income of $659 per month compared to $381 for other households. Nearly 58 percent of households with earned income reported no income other than earnings.

Social Security and Railroad Retirement

Almost 20 percent of all food stamp households received income from Railroad Retirement and Survivors' and Disability Insurance (also called Social Security) benefits averaging about $351 per month. Nearly 30 percent of these households had no other source of income, while about 50 percent also received Federal Supplemental Security Income payments.

Supplemental Security Income

Almost 20 percent of all food stamp households received SSI payments. The average Federal SSI benefit was $240 per month. This was the only source of income for nearly 28 percent of these households. Over one-half received SSI in combination with Social Security benefits.

Deductions From Gross Income

The Food Stamp Act provides for deductions from gross income when determining household eligibility and benefits. In the summer of 1988, these included a standard deduction for all households, earned income and dependent care deductions for employed households, a medical deduction for the elderly and disabled, and an excess shelter expense deduction. Each of the dependent care and excess shelter deductions had limits on the size of the deduction available to households. Households could claim up to a maximum of $160 for the dependent care deduction. The excess

shelter deduction limit was $152 for households certified before October 1, 1987 and $164 for other households, with elderly and disabled households exempted from either limit.

Almost 80 percent of all food stamp households claimed at least one deduction other than the standard. The average deduction to which households were entitled, including the value of the standard, was $211 per month. The average entitlement for all deductions other than the standard was $109 per month.

A distinction should be made between a household's deduction entitlement and the amount actually used to compute food stamp benefits. The entitlement is the deduction that a household would receive on the basis of its earned income, dependent care costs, shelter costs, and medical expenses if the total of these allowable deductions was less than its gross income. Because net income cannot be less than zero, households with total deductions greater than their gross income could only claim a portion of their deduction entitlement. The value of the deductions actually used in computing household benefits in the summer of 1988, that is, the difference between average gross and average net income, was $191, or 90 percent of the average total deduction entitlement of food stamp households.

The frequency with which the different deductions were claimed varied considerably. The excess shelter deduction was claimed by over 70 percent of all participating households. The average value of the shelter deduction among those who claimed it was $118 per month. Nearly 22 percent of all food stamp households (and 31 percent of those claiming the excess shelter deduction) were affected by the cap placed on the value of the excess shelter deduction. Households with elderly or disabled members are not subject to the cap. As a result, 5 percent of all food stamp households (18 percent of the elderly households) claimed a deduction above the cap. The average shelter deduction among these exempted households was $250 per month.

Twenty percent of all food stamp households claimed the earned income deduction, averaging $103 per month. In contrast, both the dependent care and medical deductions were used relatively infrequently. For those who were able to claim one or the other, however, they provided a substantial deduction from gross income. The dependent care deduction was claimed by nearly 3 percent of all participating households with an average claim of $108 among those claiming the deduction. The medical deduction was claimed by about 3 percent of all participating households. The average claim among those with this deduction was $72.

Food Stamp Benefits

The average summer monthly food stamp benefit reported in this survey was $127 per household (or about $48.03 per person).[4] Nine percent of the households received the minimum $10 benefit guaranteed to one- and two-person households.

Targeting Benefits to the Most Needy

FSP is designed to target benefits to those households most in need. Poorer households relative to the poverty guideline receive larger benefits than households with more income. Table 4 demonstrates the extent of benefit targeting in the program in the summer of 1988. Only 37 percent of all households had income at 50 percent or less of the poverty guideline, yet these households received 54 percent of all food stamp benefits issued. In contrast, many more households (55 percent) had income between 51 and 100 percent of the poverty guideline but received only 43 percent of the benefits.

Effect on Poverty Status

The previous discussion of gross income levels showed that food stamp participants generally fell well below the poverty line. The official definition of poverty is based on the cash income of household members before taxes and after cash transfer payments, but it does not include the value of in-kind benefits such as food stamps. If the FSP is viewed in the general context of income maintenance programs, however, it can be argued that food stamp benefits, which increase a household's total resources, should be included in any measurement of a household's poverty status. In this way, the effect of food stamp benefits in reducing the number of households in poverty can also be measured. Table 5 compares the poverty status of participating households before the transfer of food stamp benefits, based on cash income only, and after the transfer, counting the value of food stamps received along with cash income.[5]

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[4]In comparison to the sample survey data reported here, FSP administrative data for 1988 show an average summer monthly benefit of $129.50 per household and $49.41 per person.

[5]This comparison assumes that program participants value their food stamp benefits at face value. For a general discussion of this and related issues, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Technical Paper No. 50, "Alternative Methods for Valuing Selected In-Kind Transfer Benefits and Measuring Their Effect on Poverty, " Washington, DC, 1982.

Table 4--Distribution of households and benefits by poverty line, summer 1988

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Percent of all households	Percent of all benefits
25% or less	13.1	19.4
26 - 50	23.9	34.7
51 - 75	24.3	27.2
76 - 100	30.8	15.8
101 - 125	6.9	2.7
126 - 130	0.6	0.1
131 or more	0.5	0.1
Total[a]	100.0	100.0

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Table 5--Effect of food stamp benefits on poverty status of food stamp households, summer 1988

Income as a percent of poverty	Distribution of households in relation to poverty line[a]		Change in percentage points
	Based on cash only	Based on cash and food stamps	
50% or less	37%	13%	-23
51 to 100	55	73	+18
101 or more	8	14	+ 6
Number of households (in thousands)	7,015	7,015	

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

By counting food stamp benefits along with cash income, the percentage of food stamp households below the poverty line fell from 92 percent to 86 percent. In other words, 6 percent of the participating households were moved above the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. Program benefits had an even greater effect on the poorest households; 23 percent of the participating households were moved to at least half of the poverty line as a result of their food stamp benefit. The proportion of food stamp households above the poverty line increased (from 8 to 14 percent) when food stamp benefits were counted, while the proportion remaining below half of the poverty line was reduced by almost two-thirds (from 37 to 13 percent).

Assets

The summer 1988 survey collected limited information on the assets of participating households. Almost 76 percent of all food stamp households had no assets counted toward the resource limit. Another 19 percent had countable assets of $500 or less. The remaining 6 percent of households had countable assets between $501 and $3,000.

Households with elderly members had somewhat higher asset levels, but only 6 percent of these households had $1,000 or more in countable resources in spite of a higher resource limit ($3,000 for each household compared to $2,000 for other households). Across all households, countable assets averaged $92 in the summer of 1988, while households with elderly members had an average of $229.

Caseload Composition

The average size of a food stamp household was about 2.6 persons in the summer of 1988, but there was considerable variation among different household types. The average for households with school-age children, for example, was 3.8 persons. Households with children of any age contained an average of 3.6 persons. Households with earned income had an average of 3.5 persons. Households with one or more elderly members contained an average of only 1.4 persons. Over one-half (52 percent) of all food stamp households contained only one or two people.

The heads of food stamp households were predominantly female (76 percent). Forty-seven percent were white, 36 percent black, and over 12 percent were of Hispanic origin.

The age distribution of all people receiving food stamps reflects the large percentage (61 percent) of food stamp households with

children and the larger average size of these households. Over 50 percent of all food stamp participants were children under age 18. Another 8 percent were 60 years or older. Thus, about 60 percent of all food stamp participants were either young or old.

Households With Children

Over 82 percent of all food stamp benefits in the summer of 1988 were issued to households with children, who comprised almost 61 percent of all participating households. These households were predominantly headed by women (83 percent). About 71 percent of female-headed households with children received AFDC.

Households with children were typically larger, and had higher total income but lower per-person income, than households without children. The average size of a household with children was 3.6 persons, compared to an average of 1.2 persons in households without children. The average gross income among households with children was $501 per month ($139 per person), compared to $329 per month ($274 per person) in those without children. Households with children received an average food stamp benefit of $171 per month ($48 per person) while those without children received $58 per month (also $48 per person).

Households With Elderly

Households with elderly members accounted for 19 percent of the total food stamp caseload in the summer of 1988, but since those households were smaller on average (1.4 for households containing elderly persons compared to 2.9 persons for households with no elderly members) and had relatively higher net income, they received only 7 percent of all benefits issued that period. Over 92 percent of all elderly participants either lived by themselves or with one other person.

After adjusting for the differences in household size, households with elderly members had relatively higher income than those without elderly members. Average gross income per person among households with elderly members was $304 versus $150 per month for households without elderly members.

Similarly, the average net income of $172 per person in elderly households was more than double the $84 per person found in nonelderly households. Thus, average benefits per person were 32 percent less among the elderly--$34 versus $50 per month. Nearly 28 percent of the households with elderly members received the minimum $10 benefit.

Households With Earned Income

About 20 percent of all food stamp households reported earned income in the summer of 1988. They received a proportionate share (24 percent) of the benefits issued that period.

Nearly 9 percent of all household heads were employed in full-time jobs (that is, working at least 30 hours per week). Another 4 percent were working part time, and less than 1 percent were self-employed.

Households with earned income were generally larger than average (3.5 for households with earned income compared to 2.4 persons for households with no earned income) and somewhat more likely to include children (81 percent compared to 56 percent). Gross incomes for these households were substantially larger than those of households without earnings ($642 versus $381). They received an average per-capita benefit of about $43, compared to $50 among households without earned income.

Work Registration

Able-bodied food stamp participants age 18 to 59 were required to register for work and accept employment if offered. Table 6 shows that 54 percent of all adult participants under the age of 60 were either employed full-time or met the work registration requirements of the Food Stamp, AFDC, or unemployment insurance (UI) Programs.

Of all food stamp participants, approximately 63 percent were exempted from work requirements on the basis of their age or disability. This reflects the large number of children and elderly participants in the FSP. Over 25 percent of all the adults in the program and 11 percent of all participants were exempted from work registration because they were responsible for the care of young children or incapacitated adults, the second most frequent kind of exemption. Seven percent of all food stamp participants were registered for work.

Table 6--Work registration status of food stamp participants, summer 1988

Work registration status	Percentage of nonelderly adult participants[a] (18-59 years)	Percentage of all participants[a]
Meeting work requirement:		
Registered for work	17.6	7.1
Exempted from food stamp registration:		
Employed full time	10.8	4.3
AFDC work program participants	22.5	9.3
UI recipients	1.0	0.4
Exempted from work requirement:		
Caretakers of children and incapacitated adults	30.1	12.2
Residents of drug addiction/alcohol treatment center	0.2	0.1
Students	2.3	2.6
Less than 18[b], over 60, or disabled[c]	15.5	63.9
Number of participants (in thousands)	7,230	18,218

[a]Percent of those participants with known work registration status.

[b]The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires 16- and 17-year-olds who are household heads and who are not in school or otherwise exempt, to register for work.

[c]For adults, the figure includes disabled participants only.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

CHAPTER 3: CHANGES IN FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter describes some of the changes in the composition and circumstances of the food stamp caseload from 1987 to 1988 by looking at survey results from summer 1987 and summer 1988. Several factors should be considered when interpreting the results presented here. Since this analysis is based on a cross-sectional sample, it cannot determine whether differences in caseload characteristics are due to changes in the circumstances of continuing participants, to changes in the circumstances of new participants, or to some combination of both. Nor can a cross-sectional analysis disaggregate the separate impacts of food stamp legislation, changes in other related social programs, or changes in the economy. A longitudinal sample, which tracks characteristics of the same households over time, is a better measure of these effects as well as changes in the behavior of individual participants.

Changes in Income

Average monthly gross income increased from $426 per household in summer 1987 to $433 in summer 1988 (see table 7). However, after adjusting for inflation, real gross income decreased by almost 3 percent. Real net income for food stamp households also decreased by 3 percent.

However, the distribution of households, with respect to the official poverty guidelines (as shown in table 8), rose. Since the poverty line varies by household size and is adjusted each year to reflect changes in the cost of living, this standard also provides a measure of real changes in income. The percentage of households with gross income less than or equal to half the poverty line, for instance, fell from 39 percent of all households to 37 percent of all households, a 2 percent drop. Moreover, almost 8 percent had income above the poverty level in summer 1988, an increase of almost 2 percent from summer 1987.

Changes in Deductions

Nominal average total deductions increased from $205 to $211 between summer 1986 and summer 1988. The percentage of the potential or entitlement deduction that was claimed in the summer

Table 7--Average nominal and real monthly income of food stamp participants, summer 1987 and summer 1988

	Summer 1987	Summer 1988		Percentage change	
		Nominal	Real[a]	Nominal	Real[a]
Average gross income					
Per household	$426	$433	$415	+1.6	-2.6
Per person	156	160	153	+2.6	-2.0
Average net income					
Per household	239	242	232	+1.3	-3.0
Per person	88	90	86	+2.3	-2.3

[a]Adjusted by change in CPI-U for all items between summer 1987 and summer 1988 (4.1%).

Source: Summer 1987 and summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 8--Comparison of poverty status of participating households, summer 1987 and summer 1988 (percent of all households)[a]

Gross income as a percentage of poverty	Summer 1987	Summer 1988
50% or less	39.0%	37.0%
51 - 100	54.8	55.1
101 - 150	5.8	7.5
151 or more	0.4	0.4
Number of households (in thousands)	6,881	7,015

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1987 and summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

of 1988 was 90 percent, identical to the proportion in summer 1987.[1]

As table 9 shows, the percentage of food stamp households that claimed each deduction changed only slightly. The most frequently used deduction--with the exception of the standard available to every household--was the excess shelter deduction, claimed by 70 percent of the participating households. The earned income deduction was claimed by 20 percent of all food stamp households. Both the dependent care and the medical deductions resulted in substantial deductions when they were claimed--an average of $108 and $72 per month, respectively, in summer 1988. However, because so few households claimed these particular deductions, they did not have much impact on the overall level of deductions.

Changes in Benefits

Average per-capita benefits are a function of net income and the maximum food stamp allotment. Since net income is calculated by subtracting allowable deductions from gross income, changes in average gross income or deductions will have an effect on average benefits. The $120 average monthly received by households in summer 1988 represented a 6 percent benefit increase from the $120 received in summer 1987. Furthermore, as table 10 shows in 1988, fewer households received benefits under $50 than in 1987, while more received benefits exceeding $200 (see table 10). Mean benefits increased by under 1 percent in real terms from 1987 to 1988.

Table 11 presents the sources of change in average food stamp benefits. Average gross and net incomes, deductions, and benefits adjusted by the change in the CPI for all items between summer 1987 and summer 1988 are provided. The table shows decreases in the average real gross income of food stamp households (down 3.6 percent), the average real total deductions claimed (down 2.5 percent), and average real net income (down 3.9 percent) in constant summer 1987 dollars.

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[1]It is important to recall the distinction between the deduction to which a household was entitled and the deduction actually used (or claimed) to compute food stamp benefits. The actual average amount households could actually claim, given their gross income, rose slightly from $187 in summer 1987 to $191 in summer 1988, but in real terms this was a decrease of about 3 percent. The average deduction to which households were entitled rose from $205 to $211, but again this represented a 3-percent real decrease in 1987 dollars.

Table 9--Frequency and value of deductions from gross income, summer 1987 and summer 1988

Type of deduction	Percent of households with deduction[a]		Average value of deduction[b]		
	Summer 1987	Summer 1988	Summer 1987	Summer 1988	Percent Change
Standard	100	100	$99	$102	+3.0
Earned income	20	20	101	103	+2.0
Dependent care	2	3	100	108	+8.0
Excess shelter	71	70	114	118	+3.5
Medical	3	3	77	72	-9.3
Total deduction					
Excluding standard	79	79	106	109	+2.8
Including standard	100	100	205	211	+2.9
Number of households (in thousands)	6,881	7,015			

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

[b]For households claiming the deduction.

Source: Summer 1987 and summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 10--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit, summer 1987 and summer 1988

Average monthly food stamp benefit	Nominal benefits[a]		Real benefits[b]
	Summer 1987	Summer 1988	Summer 1988
$50 or less	23%	20%	20%
51 to 100	27	27	27
101 to 150	20	15	14
151 to 200	13	16	17
201 or more	17	21	22
Number of households (in thousands)	6,881	7,015	7,015
Mean benefit	$120	$127	$121

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

[b]Benefit adjusted by change in CPI-U for food at home between summer 1987 and summer 1988 (5.0%).

Source: Summer 1987 and summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Table 11--Sources of change in average food stamp benefits
summer 1987 and summer 1988

	Nominal values			Real values[a]	
	Summer 1987	Summer 1988	Percentage Change	Summer 1988	Percentage Change
Average gross income	$426	$433	+1.6	$411	-3.6
Average total deduction	205	211	+2.9	200	-2.5
Average net income	239	242	+1.3	230	-3.9
Average household benefit	120	127	+5.8	121	+0.8
Maximum coupon allotment (for family of four)	271	290	+7.0	275	+1.5
Consumer Price Index					
All items	114.10	118.75	+4.1		
Food at home	112.10	117.70	+5.0		

[a]Real values are in constant summer 1987 dollars adjusted by changes in the CPI-U for food at home between summer 1987 and summer 1988 (5.0%).

Source: Summer 1987 and summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Changes in Household Composition

The basic character of the food stamp population remained relatively stable. As table 12 illustrates, the proportion of each of the major household types relative to the total remained fairly constant from summer 1987 to summer 1988.

Households With Children

Just as overall program participation remained substantially the same between summer 1987 and summer 1988, the percent of food stamp households with children stayed constant at 61 percent.

Households With Elderly

In summer 1988 there were approximately 1.3 million elderly households in the FSP, a drop of nearly 5 percent from summer 1987. The proportion of elderly households also fell, from almost 21 percent in summer 1987 to 19 percent in summer 1988.

Households With Earnings

There were 1.4 million food stamp households with earned income in summer 1988, approximately the same number as in summer 1987. The proportion of households with earnings also remained constant at 20 percent.

Table 12--Changes in food stamp caseload composition, summer 1987 and summer 1988 (numbers in thousands)

Major household type	Distribution of households			
	Summer 1987		Summer 1988	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Families with children	4,208	61.2	4,269	60.9
Households with elderly	1,408	20.5	1,339	19.1
Households with earners	1,389	20.2	1,401	20.0
Total[a]	6,881		7,015	

[a]Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1987 and summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Appendix A: Detailed Tables for the 50 States and the District of Columbia

In the pages that follow, detailed tabulations of the characteristics of food stamp households and participants are presented. These tables are roughly ordered to provide information on the following topics:

- Average amounts and sources of income, both gross and net.
- Frequency and average amount of deductions from gross income.
- Average amount of monthly food stamp benefits and countable resources.
- Certification status of participating households.
- Age, race, sex, and household size of food stamp participants and households.
- Employment and work registration status of food stamp participants and household heads.
- Summary statistics for households with earned income, with elderly members, with disabled members, with children, with school-age children, and with AFDC income.
- Summary comparisons of survey results from 1980 through 1988.

The reference population for each table, unless otherwise noted, is the food stamp caseload in the 50 States and the District of Columbia in the summer of 1988.[1]

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[1]Summer 1988 refers to the average of data for July and August 1988. Household samples were taken from both July and August to maintain an adequate sample size given reduced annual State sample sizes.

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Appendix Table A-1--Aggregate summer 1988 participation totals

Area	Number of households (thousands)	Number of people (thousands)	Value of benefits (thousands)
United States	7,016	18,358	$907,117
Continental U.S.	6,976	18,252	$898,982
Alaska and Hawaii	40	106	$8,135
Outlying Areas[a]	8	32	$2,380
Total	7,023	18,390	$909,479

[a] Includes participants in Guam and the Virgin Islands

Source: Food Stamp Program Integrated Information System

Appendix Table A-2--Average values of selected national caseload characteristics

	All households
Gross monthly income (dollars)	433
Net monthly income (dollars)	242
Total deduction[a] (dollars)	211
Countable resources (dollars)	92
Monthly benefit (dollars)	127
Household size (persons)	2.6
Certification period (months)	9.7

[a]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-3--Number and percentage of households with selected characteristics

	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households[a]
Zero gross income	466	6.6
Zero net income	1,284	18.3
Minimum benefit[b]	535	7.6
Elderly[c]	1,339	19.1
Children[d]	4,269	60.9
School-age children[e]	3,266	46.6
Disabled[f]	591	8.4

[a]Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

[b]Minimum benefit is $10 for one- or two-person households.

[c]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[d]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[e]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

[f]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-4--Distribution of participating households by gross and net monthly income

Amount of monthly income	Gross income		Net income	
	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	466	6.6	1,284	18.3
$1-99	117	1.7	983	14.0
100-199	591	8.4	1,169	16.7
200-299	742	10.6	1,275	18.2
300-399	1,688	24.1	805	11.5
400-499	1,022	14.6	609	8.7
500-599	842	12.0	350	5.0
600-699	580	8.3	257	3.7
700-799	400	5.7	119	1.7
800-899	208	3.0	70	1.0
900-999	146	2.1	44	0.6
1000+	211	3.0	50	0.7
Total[a]	7,015	100.0	7,015	100.0

Average gross income = $433

Average net income = $242

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-5--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	Number of households[a] (thousands)	Percent of all households[a]
None	245	92	62	45	12	6	2	2	466	6.6
$1-99	65	28	16	6	1	1	--	0	117	1.7
100-199	318	112	106	30	18	5	2	2	591	8.4
200-299	201	269	151	65	37	11	4	4	742	10.6
300-399	931	283	267	142	40	17	3	6	1,688	24.1
400-499	385	217	184	123	78	25	7	3	1,022	14.6
500-599	107	306	215	120	42	34	13	7	842	12.0
600-699	13	121	222	139	62	16	8	0	580	8.3
700-799	7	48	92	152	59	23	12	7	400	5.7
800-899	--	10	39	48	68	16	15	13	208	3.0
900-999	2	4	30	37	30	28	9	6	146	2.1
1000+	--	1	4	49	47	49	29	32	211	3.0
Number of households[a]	2,274	1,490	1,387	956	493	229	102	83	7,015	100.0
Percent of all households[a]	32.4	21.2	19.8	13.6	7.0	3.3	1.5	1.2	100.0	
Average gross income	$298	$386	$452	$551	$630	$725	$804	$906	$433	

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-6--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income and household size

Net monthly income	Household size 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	Number of households[a] (thousands)	Percent of all households[a]
None	671	285	173	95	35	12	6	6	1,284	18.3
$1-99	406	246	210	69	36	12	2	2	983	14.0
100-199	407	307	241	127	60	14	7	6	1,169	16.7
200-299	567	246	244	139	52	19	3	4	1,275	18.2
300-399	166	162	197	165	67	32	13	4	805	11.5
400-499	43	181	159	124	60	27	12	3	609	8.7
500-599	8	44	109	98	62	20	5	2	350	5.0
600-699	3	14	47	96	44	20	15	16	257	3.7
700-799	--	4	7	27	44	17	13	6	119	1.7
800-899	2	--	--	13	16	26	7	7	70	1.0
900-999	--	0	--	92	12	14	8	7	44	0.6
1000+	--	0	--	--	5	14	10	20	50	0.7
Number of households[a]	2,274	1,490	1,387	956	493	229	102	83	7,015	100.0
Percent of all households[a]	32.4	21.2	19.8	13.6	7.0	3.3	1.5	1.2	100.0	
Average net income	$134	$198	$247	$336	$407	$517	$587	$688	$242	

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-7--Distribution of participating households by income source

Amount of monthly income from specified source	Earned income[a]		Social Security		AFDC or General Assistance		SSI		Other income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	5,614	80.0	5,589	79.7	3,374	48.1	5,648	80.5	6,063	86.4
$1-99	144	2.1	48	0.7	167	2.4	337	4.8	428	6.1
100-199	155	2.2	155	2.2	696	9.9	277	3.9	172	2.5
200-299	120	1.7	368	5.2	735	10.5	130	1.9	94	1.3
300-399	124	1.8	391	5.6	793	11.3	526	7.5	113	1.6
400-499	157	2.2	247	3.5	426	6.1	44	0.6	63	0.9
500-599	157	2.2	124	1.8	361	5.2	35	0.5	33	0.5
600-699	158	2.3	56	0.8	245	3.5	5	0.1	25	0.4
700-799	104	1.5	20	0.3	125	1.8	10	0.1	17	0.2
800-899	91	1.3	8	0.1	53	0.8	1	0.0	5	0.1
900-999	73	1.0	6	0.1	16	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.0
1000+	119	1.7	3	0.0	26	0.4	1	0.0	1	0.0
Number of households[b]	7,015	100.0	7,015	100.0	7,015	100.0	7,015	100.0	7,015	100.0
Households with income	1,401	20.0	1,426	20.3	3,641	51.9	1,367	19.5	952	13.6
Average amount of income[c]	$517		$351		$358		$240		$190	
Average gross income[c]	$642		$472		$440		$458		$474	

[a]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

[c]For households with income from specified source.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-8--Number of households, average income, and average benefit by selected income sources

Income source	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average income amount[a] Gross	Average income amount[a] From source	Average benefit[a]
Earned Income:					
Wages and salaries	1,313	18.7	$659	$535	$150
Self-employment	85	1.2	466	203	166
Earned income tax credit	0	0.0	0	0	0
Other earned income	23	0.3	403	230	133
Unearned Income:					
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	2,912	41.5	479	391	165
Household General Assistance	759	10.8	300	218	98
Supplemental Security Income	1,367	19.5	458	240	56
Social Security	1,426	20.3	472	351	58
Household unemployment income	105	1.5	562	382	134
Veterans' benefits	158	2.3	468	200	67
Workers' compensation	28	0.4	575	436	129
Other government benefits	96	1.4	395	123	138
Household contribibutions	210	3.0	465	175	157
Household deemed income	6	0.1	459	113	64
Household loans	47	0.7	505	174	142
Other unearned income	362	5.2	472	109	117
No Income:	466	6.6	0	0	154
Total[b]	7,015	100.0	433		127

[a]Average over households with income from specified source.

[b]The sums of individual income sources do not add to totals because households can receive income from more than one source.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-9--Distribution of participating households by gross monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children

Gross income as a percentage of the poverty line[a]	All households		Households with elderly[b]		Households with elderly or disabled[c]		Households with children[d]	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
25% or Less	916	13.1	33	2.5	36	1.8	546	12.8
26 - 50	1,676	23.9	73	5.5	104	5.4	1,255	29.4
51 - 75	1,705	24.3	188	14.0	314	16.3	1,248	29.2
76 - 100	2,157	30.8	854	63.8	1,227	63.6	941	22.0
101 - 125	483	6.9	160	12.0	206	10.7	251	5.9
126 - 130	42	0.6	16	1.2	17	0.9	20	0.5
131 - 150	25	0.4	13	1.0	18	0.9	6	0.1
151 or more	10	0.1	1	0.1	9	0.5	2	0.1
Total[e] 7,015	100.0	1,339	100.0	1,930	100.0	4,269	100.0	

[a]Defined as the 1988 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendix B).

[b]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[c]Households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

[d]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[e]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-10--Distribution of participating households by net monthly income as a percentage of the poverty line for all households, households with elderly or disabled, and households with children

Net income as a percentage of the poverty line[a]	All households		Households with elderly[b]		Households with elderly or disabled[c]		Households with children[d]	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
25% or less	3,099	44.2	303	22.6	424	22.0	1,816	42.5
26 - 50	1,992	28.4	410	30.6	598	31.0	1,355	31.7
51 - 75	1,586	22.6	518	38.7	739	38.3	909	21.3
76 - 100	311	4.4	102	7.6	147	7.6	184	4.3
101 - 125	18	0.3	7	0.5	13	0.7	3	0.1
126 - 130	3	0.0	--	--	3	0.2	--	--
131 - 150	3	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.2	--	--
151 or more	2	0.0	--	--	2	0.1	2	0.1
Total[e] 7,015	100.0	1,339	100.0	1,930	100.0	4,269	100.0	

[a]Defined as the 1988 poverty thresholds published by the Department of Health and Human Services (see appendix B).

[b]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[c]Households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

[d]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[e]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-11--Number of participating households claiming deductions and value of deductions claimed[a]

Type of deduction	Number of households claiming deduction (thousands)	Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction: Over claiming households	Average amount of deduction: Over all households
Earned income	1,401	20.0	$103	$21
Dependent care[b]	198	2.8	108	3
Shelter[c]	4,929	70.3	118	83
Medical[d]	217	3.1	72	2
Total[e]	7,015	100.0	211	211

[a]Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[b]Subject to a limit of $160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix D).

[c]Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix D).

[d]Available only to households where at least one person is age 60 or more or receiving SSI or Social Security disability payments.

[e]Includes the standard deduction for all households (see appendix D). Due to households claiming more than one deduction or none at all, the sum of the individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-12--Distribution of participating households by amount of total deduction

Amount of total deduction[a]	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
$101 - 150	2,332	33.2
151 - 200	1,009	14.4
201 - 250	978	13.9
251 - 300	1,760	25.1
300+	935	13.3
Total[b]	7,015	100.0

Average Deduction for claiming households = $211

[a]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-13--Average total deduction[a] for all households by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	Average total deduction
	(dollars)								
None	153	187	203	205	238	208	112	266	175
$1-99	153	173	242	220	152	147	102	--	174
100-199	207	181	200	206	203	187	266	274	201
200-299	202	198	195	195	188	164	221	250	198
300-399	190	209	203	189	211	218	226	263	196
400-499	218	215	228	211	213	149	173	163	216
500-599	235	200	230	221	197	175	220	210	214
600-699	321	244	209	234	214	209	201	121	225
700-799	149	241	246	215	252	198	179	199	227
800-899	--	278	305	281	230	255	186	195	255
900-999	127	422	396	333	262	207	269	192	298
1000+	--	150	392	368	326	292	270	254	310
Average total deduction	196	207	221	228	231	215	222	229	211

[a]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-14--Number of participating households claiming earned income deduction and value of deduction claimed[a]

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly[b]	1,339	55	4.1	$54	$2
Children[c]	4,269	1,139	26.7	115	31
Disabled[d]	591	51	8.7	56	5
Earned income[e]	1,401	1,401	100.0	103	103
Public assistance[f]	3,641	367	10.1	71	7
Total[g]	7,015	1,401	20.0	103	21

[a]Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[b]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[c]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[d]Households with SSI income and no member is age 60 or more.

[e]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[f]Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

[g]The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-15--Distribution of participating households by amount of earned income deduction[a]

Amount of earned income deduction[a]	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	5,614	80.0
$1-50	365	5.2
51-100	345	4.9
101-150	365	5.2
151-200	213	3.0
201-250	79	1.1
251-300	26	0.4
300+	8	0.1
Total[b]	7,015	100.0

Average earned income deduction for claiming earned income households = $103

[a]Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-16--Number of participating households claiming dependent care deduction[a] and value of deduction claimed[b]

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly[c]	1,339	1	0.1	$95	$0
Children[d]	4,269	190	4.4	110	5
Disabled[e]	591	5	0.9	94	1
Earned income[f]	1,401	175	12.5	109	14
Public assistance[g]	3,641	82	2.3	111	3
Total[h]	7,015	198	2.8	108	3

[a]Subject to a limit of $160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix D).

[b]Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[c]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[d]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[e]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

[f]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-emloyment and farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[g]Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

[h]The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-17--Distribution of participating households by amount of dependent care deduction[a]

Amount of dependent care deduction[b]	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	6,817	97.2
$1-50	33	0.5
51-100	53	0.8
101-150	43	0.6
151-160	69	1.0
Total[c]	7,015	100.0

Average dependent care deduction for claiming households = $108

[a]Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[b]Subject to a limit of $160 per month with some exceptions (see appendix D).

[c]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-18--Number of participating households claiming excess shelter deduction[a] and value of deduction claimed[b]

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly[c]	1,339	892	66.6	$121	$80
Children[d]	4,269	3,004	70.4	118	83
Disabled[e]	591	376	63.6	126	80
Earned income[f]	1,401	934	66.7	117	78
Public assistance[g]	3,641	2,714	74.5	116	86
Total[h]	7,015	4,929	70.3	118	83

[a]Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix D).

[b]Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[c]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[d]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[e]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

[f]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[g]Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

[h]The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-19--Distribution of participating households by amount of excess shelter deduction[a]

Amount of excess shelter deduction[b]	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	2,086	29.7
$1 - 50	876	12.5
51 - 100	1,087	15.5
101 - 150	899	12.8
151 - 200	1,828	26.1
201 - 250	102	1.5
251 - 300	70	1.0
300+	67	0.9
Total[c]	7,015	100.0

Average excess shelter deduction for claiming households = $118

[a]Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[b]Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix D).

[c]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-20--Distribution of participating households by the value of shelter deduction[a]

Value of shelter deduction[b]	All households		Households with elderly[c]		Households with children[d]		Households with disabled[e]		Households with earned income[f]		Households with public assistance[g]	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	2,086	29.7	447	33.4	1,265	29.6	215	36.4	466	33.3	927	25.5
Less than cap	3,057	43.6	651	48.6	1,723	40.3	269	45.5	564	40.3	1,654	45.4
Equal to cap	1,528	21.8	3	0.2	1,233	28.9	0	0.0	349	24.9	1,009	27.7
Greater than cap	344	4.9	238	17.8	49	1.1	106	18.0	21	1.5	50	1.4
Total[h]	7,015	100.0	1,339	100.0	4,269	100.0	591	100.0	1,401	100.0	3,641	100.0

[a]Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[b]Subject to a limit except where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more (see appendix D).

[c]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[d]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[e]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

[f]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[g]Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

[h]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-21--Number of participating households claiming medical deduction and value of deduction claimed[a]

Households with:	Number of households		Percent of all households	Average amount of deduction	
	Total (thousands)	With deduction (thousands)		With deduction	All households
Elderly[b]	1,339	203	15.2	$72	$11
Children[c]	4,269	13	0.3	56	0
Disabled[d]	591	14	2.3	70	2
Earned income[e]	1,401	6	0.4	166	1
Public assistance[f]	3,641	6	0.2	41	0
Total[g]	7,015	217	3.1	72	2

[a]Available only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[b]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[c]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[d]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

[e]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[f]Public assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children and General Assistance.

[g]The sum of individual categories does not match the total because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-22--Distribution of participating households by amount of medical deduction[a]

Amount of medical deduction[a]	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
None	6,798	96.9
$ 1 - 50	121	1.7
51 - 100	50	0.7
101 - 150	21	0.3
151 - 200	9	0.1
201 - 250	8	0.1
251 - 300	2	0.0
300+	6	0.1
Total[b]	7,015	100.0

Average medical deduction for claiming households = $72

[a]Available only to households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more. Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-23--Distribution of participating households by amount of monthly food stamp benefit[a]

Amount of monthly benefit[a]	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
$10 or less	538	7.7
11 - 25	383	5.5
26 - 50	566	8.1
51 - 75	644	9.2
76 - 100	1,255	17.9
101 - 150	1,083	15.4
151 - 200	1,124	16.0
201 - 300	1,139	16.2
301 or more	282	4.0
Total[b]	7,015	100.0
Average monthly food stamp benefit = $127		

[a]The maximum monthly benefit varies by area (see appendix E).

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-24--Average monthly food stamp benefit by gross monthly income and household size

Gross monthly income	Household size								Average total deduction
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
	(dollars)								
None	88	159	228	290	344	413	469	522	154
$1-99	87	159	228	297	344	413	457	--	140
100-199	85	153	221	285	340	414	457	587	145
200-299	70	141	207	271	322	382	444	613	163
300-399	37	117	183	240	300	377	414	538	102
400-499	28	90	161	216	274	322	368	511	117
500-599	20	57	135	191	240	299	360	471	118
600-699	29	43	97	169	213	286	325	360	122
700-799	10	26	80	128	195	246	287	450	129
800-899	--	27	66	121	156	237	266	365	151
900-999	10	21	67	108	138	189	255	373	137
1000+	--	10	49	77	92	142	167	273	137
Average benefit per household	51	101	154	190	222	260	282	385	127

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-25--Distribution of participating households by total countable resources for all households and households with elderly or disabled

Value of countable resources[a]	All households		Households with elderly[b]		Households with elderly or disabled[c]	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
None	5,295	75.5	810	60.5	1,218	63.1
$ 1 - 500	1,330	19.0	344	25.7	489	25.3
501 - 1,000	214	3.0	99	7.4	120	6.2
1,001 - 1,500	107	1.5	56	4.1	64	3.3
1,501 - 1,750	22	0.3	8	0.6	10	0.5
1,751 - 2,000	21	0.3	7	0.5	12	0.6
2,001 - 3,000	17	0.2	12	0.9	13	0.7
Unknown	9	0.1	3	0.2	4	0.2
Total[d]	7,015	100.0	1,339	100.0	1,930	100.0

Average value of countable resources for all households = $92

Average value of countable resources for elderly households = $229

Average value of countable resources for elderly or disabled households = $193

[a]Defined as cash on hand, assets which can be easily converted to cash, such as money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, stocks or bonds, and lump sum payments. They also include some nonliquid assets, although the family home, one or more family vehicles if under $4,500 in value, and business tools or property are not counted.

[b]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[c]Households where at least one member is age 60 or more, or at least one member receives SSI and no member is age 60 or more.

[d]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-26--Distribution of participating households by type of most recent action

Most recent action	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Initial certification[a]	1,666	23.8
Recertification	5,284	75.3
Unknown	65	0.9
Total[b]	7,015	100.0

[a]Includes both households certified for the first time and previously certified households who have not received benefits for at least 30 days.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-27--Comparison of households with and without expedited service by presence of gross and net monthly income

	Households with expedited service[a]		Households without expedited service		Unknown	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent[b]
Gross income = 0	114	41.1	352	5.2	0	0.0
Gross income > 0	164	58.9	6,373	94.8	12	100.0
Net income = 0	157	56.7	1,126	16.7	1	10.7
Net income > 0	120	43.3	5,600	83.3	11	89.3
Total[c]	278	4.0	6,725	95.9	12	0.2

[a]Households which initially received expedited service for the certification period in effect in July or August 1988.

[b]Percents are calculated from unrounded numbers and may not match calculations based on the rounded number presented in the table.

[c]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-28--Distribution of participating households by length of certification period

Months in certification period	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
1	47	0.7
2	36	0.5
3	232	3.3
4	224	3.2
5	119	1.7
6	1,526	21.8
7	293	4.2
8	156	2.2
9	74	1.1
10	85	1.2
11	190	2.7
12	3,493	49.8
13+	523	7.5
Unknown	17	0.2
Total[a]	7,015	100.0
Average length of certification in months = 9.7		

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-29--Distribution of participating households by household size

Household size	All households		Households with elderly[a]		Households with earnings[b]		Households with children[c]	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
1	2,274	32.4	1,002	74.8	177	12.6	29	0.7
2	1,490	21.2	234	17.5	239	17.0	1,068	25.0
3	1,387	19.8	46	3.4	327	23.3	1,318	30.9
4	956	13.6	25	1.8	297	21.2	950	22.3
5	493	7.0	18	1.3	187	13.4	492	11.5
6	229	3.3	5	0.4	97	6.9	227	5.3
7	102	1.5	4	0.3	43	3.1	102	2.4
8+	83	1.2	5	0.4	33	2.4	83	1.9
Total[d]	7,015	100.0	1,339	100.0	1,401	100.0	4,269	100.0
Average size	2.6		1.4		3.5		3.6	

[a]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[b]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[c]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[d]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-30--Sex- and age-related characteristics of participating households

	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households[a]
Households with elderly[b]	1,339	19.1
Single person elderly households[c]	1,002	14.3
Headed by female	824	11.7
Headed by male	176	2.5
Unknown	2	0.0
Other elderly households[d]	337	4.8
Headed by female	159	2.3
Headed by male	176	2.5
Unknown	3	0.0
Households with children[e]	4,269	60.9
Headed by female	3,559	50.7
Headed by male	664	9.5
Unknown	45	0.6
Households with disabled[f]	591	8.4
Headed by female	410	5.8
Headed by male	181	2.6
Unknown	1	0.0

[a]Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

[b]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[c]Includes elderly single persons living alone or as a separate food stamp unit in a larger household.

[d]Includes elderly couples and other multiperson households with elderly members.

[e]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[f]Households with SSI income and no member is age 60 or more.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-31--Distribution of participating households by household size, number of elderly, number of children, and number of school-age children

	Household size								Number of households (thousands)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
Number of Elderly[a]									
0	1,272	1,256	1,341	932	475	224	98	78	5,676
1	1,002	99	34	22	14	4	4	5	1,184
2	**	136	11	3	3	1	--	--	154
3	**	**	0	--	--	--	--	--	0
4	**	**	**	--	--	1	--	--	1
Number of Children[b]									
0	2,244	422	69	6	1	2	--	--	2,746
1	29	1,021	341	68	12	2	1	--	1,474
2	**	47	965	369	47	12	2	--	1,444
3	**	**	12	507	242	37	9	2	808
4	**	**	**	6	188	116	15	5	329
5+	**	**	**	**	2	60	74	76	213
Number of School Age Children[c]									
0	2,254	894	408	151	33	7	1	2	3,749
1	20	587	526	258	91	19	13	0	1,516
2	**	9	452	338	137	56	16	5	1,014
3	**	**	1	209	167	66	19	4	467
4	**	**	**	1	64	66	28	23	181
5+	**	**	**	**	**	15	25	48	88
Total[d]	2,274	1,490	1,387	956	493	229	102	83	7,015

[a]Persons age 60 or more.

[b]Persons age 17 or less.

[c]Persons age 5 to 17.

[d]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-32--Distribution of participants by age and sex

Age	Female		Male		Unknown		All participants	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
4 or less	1,571	8.5	1,594	8.6	1	0.0	3,167	17.1
5 - 17	3,014	16.3	3,135	16.9	3	0.0	6,152	33.2
18 - 35	3,553	19.2	1,235	6.7	0	0.0	4,789	25.8
36 - 59	1,733	9.3	955	5.2	0	0.0	2,688	14.5
60 or more	1,076	5.8	418	2.3	1	0.0	1,495	8.1
Unknown	115	0.6	139	0.8	--	--	255	1.4
Total[a]	11,062	59.7	7,477	40.3	6	0.0	18,545	100.0

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-33--Age-related characteristics of participants

	Number of participants (thousands)	Percent of participants
A. Children[a]	9,318	50.2
1. Preschool children	3,167	17.1
2. School-age children	6,152	33.2
B. Adults[b]	7,477	40.3
1. Parents	5,590	30.1
a. Single parents	2,882	15.5
Living with elderly	47	0.3
Disabled	90	0.5
Living with disabled	24	0.1
Other	2,721	14.7
b. Multiple parents	2,708	14.6
Living with elderly	49	0.3
Disabled	101	0.5
Living with disabled	174	0.9
Other	2,385	12.9
2. Nonparents	1,887	10.2
a. Single adults	1,371	7.4
Living with elderly	83	0.4
Disabled	302	1.6
Living with disabled	--	--
Other	986	5.3
b. Multiple adults	516	2.8
Living with elderly	30	0.2
Disabled	67	0.4
Living with disabled	53	0.3
Other	365	2.0
C. Elderly[c]	1,495	8.1
D. Unknown age	255	1.4
Total[d]	18,545	100.0

[a]Persons age 17 or less.

[b]Persons age 18 to 59.

[c]Persons age 60 or more.

[d]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-34--Distribution of participating households by race or ethnic origin of household head

Race/ethnic origin of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
White	3,307	47.1
Black	2,541	36.2
Hispanic	873	12.4
Asian	122	1.7
American Indian	73	1.0
Unknown	98	1.4
Total[a]	7,015	100.0

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-35--Distribution of participating households by selected characteristics of household members

Households with at least one:	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Alien	84	1.2
Migrant	4	0.1
Military	1	0.0
Striker	5	0.1
Student[a]	406	5.8

[a]Household member age 18 years or older enrolled at least half time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-36--Distribution of participating households by employment status of household head

Employment status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of all households
Employed full time[a]	613	8.7
Employed part time[b]	308	4.4
Self-employed	28	0.4
Farm employed	10	0.1
Not employed	5,909	84.2
Unknown	147	2.1
Total[c]	7,015	100.0

[a]Employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

[b]Employed less than 30 hours per week.

[c]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-37--Distribution of participating households by work registration status of household head

Work registration status of household head	Number of households (thousands)	Percent of households
Required to register for work	793	11.3
Exempt from work registration:	6,006	85.6
Less than 18[a]	40	0.6
Disabled or elderly	2,117	30.2
WIN participant	1,401	20.0
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult[b]	1,780	25.4
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	52	0.7
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	16	0.2
Employed full time[c]	567	8.1
Student[d]	34	0.5
Unknown	216	3.1
Total[e]	7,015	100.0

[a]The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires 16- and 17-year-olds who are household heads and who are not in school or otherwise exempt, to register for work.

[b]Includes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

[c]Employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

[d]Enrolled at least half time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

[e]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-38--Distribution of participants by work registration status

Work registration status	Number of participants (thousands)	Percent of participants
Required to register for work	1,298	7.0
Exempt from work registration:	16,919	91.2
Less than 18[a]	9,102	49.1
Disabled or elderly	2,545	13.7
WIN participant	1,696	9.1
Caretaker of child or incapacitated adult[b]	2,231	12.0
Recipient of Unemployment Insurance (UI)	73	0.4
Participant in drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program	16	0.1
Employed full time[c]	791	4.3
Student[d]	465	2.5
Unknown	327	1.8
Total[e]	18,545	100.0

[a]The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, requires 16- and 17-year olds who are household heads and who are not in school or otherwise exempt, to register for work.

[b]Includes both caretakers of children under 6 and caretakers of children under 18 where another able-bodied parent is registered for work or exempted because of employment.

[c]Employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours.

[d]Enrolled at least half time in a recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

[e]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-39--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without earned income

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with earned income[a]	1,401	20.0	$210,785	23.7
Households with no earned income	5,614	80.0	679,861	76.3
Total[b]	7,015	100.0	890,647	100.0

[a]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-40--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without earned income

	Households with earned income[a]	Households with no earned income
Gross monthly income (dollars)	642	381
Net monthly income (dollars)	355	214
Total deductions[b] (dollars)	298	190
Countable resources (dollars)	121	85
Monthly benefit (dollars)	150	121
Household size (persons)	3.5	2.4
Certification period (months)	9.0	9.8

[a]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[b]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-41--Number and percentage of households with and without earned income for selected characteristics

	Households with earned income[a]		Households with no earned income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent[b]	Number (thousands)	Percent[b]
Zero gross income	**	**	466	8.3
Zero net income	166	11.8	1,119	19.9
Minimum benefit[c]	45	3.2	490	8.7
Elderly[d]	55	3.9	1,284	22.9
Children[e]	1,139	81.3	3,130	55.7
School-age children[f]	929	66.3	2,337	41.6

[a]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[b]Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

[c]Minimum benefit is $10 for one- and two-person households.

[d]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[e]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[f]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

**By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-42--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without earned income

	Households with earned income[a]		Households with no earned income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	416	29.7	3,348	59.6
3 - 4	624	44.6	1,720	30.6
5+	361	25.8	546	9.7
Gross income				
None	**	**	466	8.3
$ 1 - 99	38	2.7	79	1.4
100 - 199	71	5.1	520	9.3
200 - 299	76	5.4	667	11.9
300 - 399	117	8.3	1,572	28.0
400 - 499	157	11.2	865	15.4
500+	942	67.3	1,446	25.8
Net income				
None	166	11.8	1,118	19.9
$ 1 - 99	123	8.8	860	15.3
100 - 199	184	13.1	986	17.6
200 - 299	169	12.0	1,107	19.7
300 - 399	200	14.3	605	10.8
400 - 499	171	12.2	438	7.8
500+	389	27.8	500	8.9
Benefits				
$ 10 or less	46	3.3	492	8.8
11 - 50	104	7.4	845	15.0
51 - 100	341	24.3	1,558	27.8
101 - 200	549	39.2	1,658	29.5
201 - 300	272	19.4	867	15.4
301+	88	6.3	194	3.5
Total[b]	1,401	100.0	5,613	100.0

[a]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-43--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without elderly

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with elderly[a]	1,339	19.1	$64,682	7.3
Households with no elderly	5,676	80.9	825,965	92.7
Total[b]	7,015	100.0	890,647	100.0

[a]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-44--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without elderly

	Households with elderly[a]	Households with no elderly
Gross monthly income (dollars)	426	435
Net monthly income (dollars)	241	243
Total deductions[b] (dollars)	196	215
Countable resources[c] (dollars)	229	60
Monthly benefit (dollars)	48	146
Household size (persons)	1.4	2.9
Certification period (months)	11.7	9.2

[a]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[b]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those deductions to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[c]The resource limit for most households was $2,000. However, households with at least one member age 60 or older were allowed up to $3,000.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-45--Number and percentage of households with and without elderly for selected characteristics

	Households with elderly[a]		Households with no elderly	
	Number (thousands)	Percent[b]	Number (thousands)	Percent[b]
Zero gross income	17	1.3	449	7.9
Zero net income	117	8.7	1,168	20.6
Minimum benefit[c]	370	27.6	165	2.9
Children[d]	105	7.8	4,164	73.4
School-age children[e]	93	6.9	3,173	55.9

[a]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[b]Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

[c]Minimum benefit is $10 for one- and two-person households.

[d]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[e]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-46--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without elderly

	Households with elderly[a]		Households with no elderly	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	1,236	92.3	2,528	44.5
3 - 4	71	5.3	2,273	40.0
5+	32	2.4	875	15.4
Gross income				
None	17	1.3	449	7.9
$ 1 - 99	6	0.4	111	2.0
100 - 199	40	3.0	551	9.7
200 - 299	65	4.9	677	11.9
300 - 399	600	44.8	1,089	19.2
400 - 499	296	22.1	726	12.8
500+	315	23.5	2,073	36.5
Net income				
None	117	8.7	1,168	20.6
$ 1 - 99	148	11.1	834	14.7
100 - 199	248	18.5	921	16.2
200 - 299	450	33.6	826	14.5
300 - 399	180	13.4	626	11.0
400 - 499	127	9.5	482	8.5
500+	70	5.2	819	14.4
Benefits				
$ 10 or less	371	27.7	167	2.9
11 - 50	503	37.5	446	7.9
51 - 100	345	25.7	1,555	27.4
101 - 200	85	6.4	2,123	37.4
201 - 300	25	1.9	1,114	19.6
301+	10	0.8	272	4.8
Total[b]	1,339	100.0	5,676	100.0

[a]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-47--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without disabled

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with disabled[a]	591	8.4	$45,545	5.1
Households with no disabled	6,424	91.6	845,102	94.9
Total[b]	7,015	100.0	890,647	100.0

[a]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-48--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without disabled

	Households with disabled[a]	Households with no disabled
Gross monthly income (dollars)	507	427
Net monthly income (dollars)	322	235
Total deductions[b] (dollars)	189	213
Countable resources (dollars)	110	91
Monthly benefit (dollars)	77	132
Household size (persons)	2.2	2.7
Certification period (months)	10.6	9.6

[a]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

[b]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-49--Number and percentage of households with and without disabled for selected characteristics

Households with:	Households with disabled[a]		Households with no disabled	
	Number (thousands)	Percent[b]	Number (thousands)	Percent[b]
Zero gross income	0	0.0	466	7.3
Zero net income	23	3.8	1,262	19.6
Minimum benefit[c]	86	14.5	449	7.0
Children[d]	233	39.4	4,036	62.8
School-age children[e]	207	35.0	3,059	47.6

[a]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

[b]Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

[c]Minimum benefit is $10 for one- and two-person households.

[d]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[e]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-50--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without disabled

Households with:	Households with disabled[a]		Households with no disabled	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household size				
1 - 2	406	68.7	3,358	52.3
3 - 4	118	19.9	2,226	34.7
5+	67	11.4	840	13.1
Gross income				
None	--	--	466	7.3
$ 1 - 99	2	0.4	115	1.8
100 - 199	1	0.2	590	9.2
200 - 299	12	2.1	730	11.4
300 - 399	240	40.5	1,449	22.6
400 - 499	104	17.5	919	14.3
500+	232	39.3	2,155	33.6
Net income				
None	23	3.8	1,262	19.6
$ 1 - 99	62	10.5	921	14.3
100 - 199	105	17.7	1,064	16.6
200 - 299	154	26.0	1,122	17.5
300 - 399	63	10.6	743	11.6
400 - 499	61	10.2	548	8.5
500+	124	21.0	765	11.9
Benefits				
$ 10 or less	86	14.5	452	7.0
11 - 50	192	32.6	756	11.8
51 - 100	164	27.7	1,736	27.0
101 - 200	99	16.8	2,108	32.8
201 - 300	36	6.0	1,104	17.2
301+	14	2.3	268	4.2
Total[b]	591	100.0	6,424	100.0

[a]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

[b]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

-- No sample households in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-51--Distribution of households and benefits for households with children, school-age children, and no children

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with children[a]	4,269	60.9	$731,410	82.1
Households with school-age children[b]	3,266	46.6	589,094	66.1
Households with no children	2,746	39.1	159,237	17.9
Total[c]	7,015	100.0	890,647	100.0

[a]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[b]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

[c]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-52--Average value of selected characteristics for households with children, school-age children, and no children

	Households with children[a]	Households with school-age children[b]	Households with no children
Gross monthly income (dollars)	501	528	329
Net monthly income (dollars)	295	318	160
Total deductions[c] (dollars)	221	224	197
Countable resources (dollars)	72	79	124
Monthly benefit (dollars)	171	180	58
Household size (persons)	3.6	3.8	1.2
Certification period (months)	9.2	9.2	10.4

[a]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[b]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

[c]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-53--Number and percentage of households with children, school-age children, and no children for selected characteristics

	Households with children[a]		Households with school-age children[b]		Households with no children	
	Number (thousands)	Percent[c]	Number (thousands)	Percent[c]	Number (thousands)	Percent[c]
Zero gross income	213	5.0	130	4.0	253	9.2
Zero net income	568	13.3	386	11.8	716	26.1
Minimum benefit[d]	28	0.6	20	0.6	507	18.5
Elderly[e]	105	2.5	93	2.8	1,234	44.9
School-age children[b]	3,266	76.5	3,266	100.0	0	0.0

[a]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[b]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

[c]Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

[d]Minimum benefit is $10 for one- and two-person households.

[e]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-54--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with children, school-age children, and no children

	Households with children[a]		Households with school-age children[b]		Households with no children	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Households size						
1 - 2	1,097	25.7	616	18.9	2,667	97.1
3 - 4	2,268	53.1	1,785	54.7	76	2.8
5+	904	21.2	864	26.5	4	0.1
Gross income						
None	213	5.0	130	4.0	253	9.2
$ 1 - 99	46	1.1	32	1.0	71	2.6
100 - 199	255	6.0	172	5.3	335	12.2
200 - 299	496	11.6	342	10.5	247	9.0
300 - 399	667	15.6	495	15.1	1,021	37.2
400 - 499	577	13.5	449	13.8	446	16.2
500+	2,015	47.2	1,646	50.4	373	13.6
Net income						
None	568	13.3	386	11.8	716	26.1
$ 1 - 99	526	12.3	366	11.2	457	16.6
100 - 199	691	16.2	513	15.7	478	17.4
200 - 299	639	15.0	468	14.3	636	23.2
300 - 399	564	13.2	445	13.6	242	8.8
400 - 499	456	10.7	363	11.1	153	5.6
500+	824	19.3	724	22.2	65	2.4
Benefits						
$ 10 or less	30	0.7	22	0.7	508	18.5
11 - 50	186	4.4	128	3.9	763	27.8
51 - 100	654	15.3	446	13.6	1,246	45.4
101 - 200	2,003	46.9	1,453	44.5	205	7.5
201 - 300	1,117	26.2	949	29.1	23	0.8
301+	280	6.6	268	8.2	2	0.1
Total[c]	4,269	100.0	3,266	100.0	2,746	100.0

[a]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[b]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

[c]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-55--Distribution of households and benefits for households with and without AFDC income

	Households		Benefits	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Value (thousands)	Percent
Households with AFDC income	2,912	41.5	$481,867	54.1
Households with no AFDC income	4,103	58.5	408,780	45.9
Total[a]	7,015	100.0	890,647	100.0

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-56--Average value of selected characteristics for households with and without AFDC income

	Households with AFDC income	Households with no AFDC income
Gross monthly income (dollars)	479	401
Net monthly income (dollars)	286	211
Total deductions[a] (dollars)	197	222
Countable resources (dollars)	50	123
Monthly benefit (dollars)	165	100
Household size (persons)	3.4	2.1
Certification period (months)	9.4	9.8

[a]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-57--Number and percentage of households with and without AFDC income for selected characteristics

Households with:	Households with AFDC income		Households with no AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent[a]	Number (thousands)	Percent[a]
Zero gross income	**	**	466	11.4
Zero net income	244	8.4	1,040	25.3
Minimum benefit[b]	21	0.7	514	12.5
Elderly[c]	49	1.7	1,290	31.4
Children[d]	2,821	96.9	1,448	35.3
School-age children[e]	2,124	73.0	1,141	27.8

[a]Percent figures do not add to 100 because a household can have more than one of the characteristics included in the table.

[b]Minimum benefit is $10 for one- and two-person households.

[c]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[d]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[e]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-58--Comparison of distribution of participating households on selected characteristics for households with and without AFDC income

Households with:	Households with AFDC income		Households with no AFDC income	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Household Size				
1 - 2	905	31.1	2,859	69.7
3 - 4	1,470	50.5	873	21.3
5+	536	18.4	371	9.0
Gross Income				
None	**	**	466	11.4
$ 1 - 99	20	0.7	97	2.4
100 - 199	208	7.1	383	9.3
200 - 299	434	14.9	309	7.5
300 - 399	574	19.7	1,114	27.2
400 - 499	454	15.6	568	13.9
500+	1,222	42.0	1,166	28.4
Net Income				
None	244	8.4	1,040	25.3
$ 1 - 99	438	15.0	545	13.3
100 - 199	559	19.2	611	14.9
200 - 299	500	17.2	775	18.9
300 - 399	394	13.5	411	10.0
400 - 499	289	9.9	320	7.8
500+	488	16.7	401	9.8
Benefits				
$10 or less	22	0.7	516	12.6
11 - 50	122	4.2	827	20.1
51 - 100	453	15.6	1,446	35.2
101 - 200	1,472	50.5	736	17.9
201 - 300	686	23.6	453	11.0
301+	157	5.4	125	3.1
Total[a]	2,912	100.0	4,103	100.0

[a]Due to rounding, the sum of individual categories may not match the table total.

** By definition, these are mutually exclusive categories, therefore, no households will be found in this category.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix Table A-59--Comparison of average value of selected characteristics for August 1980 - Summer 1988

	August 1980[a]	August 1981	August 1982	Feb. 1983	August 1983	August 1984	Summer 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1987	Winter 1988	Summer 1988
Gross monthly income (dollars)	$326	$349	$356	$376	$379	$390	$398	$417	$426	$434	$433
Net monthly income (dollars)	$194	$196	$205	$208	$224	$229	$226	$232	$239	$243	$242
Total deduction[b] (dollars)	$148	$169	$159	$175	$170	$177	$191	$203	$205	$213	$211
Countable resources (dollars)	$66	$62	$58	$73	$54	$58	$63	$71	$79	$82	$92
Monthly benefit (dollars)	$89	$103	$105	$127	$116	$114	$116	$120	$120	$130	$127
Household size (persons)	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6

[a]Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

[b]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. Deductions are those to which households are entitled. Some deductions may not have been used before a household reached zero net income status.

Sources: August 1980 - Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Appendix Table A-60--Comparison of percentage of households with selected characteristics for August 1980 - Summer 1988

Households with:	Percent of all households										
	August 1980[a]	August 1981	August 1982	Feb. 1983	August 1983	August 1984	August 1985	Summer 1986	Summer 1987	Winter 1988	Summer 1988
Zero gross income	8.1	7.3	7.8	5.4	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.0	6.0	6.9	6.6
Zero net income	16.6	18.7	18.9	18.4	16.4	17.5	19.8	18.6	17.7	18.6	18.3
Minimum benefit	6.9	5.6	7.5	4.5	7.5	9.6	8.5	8.5	8.9	6.7	7.6
Elderly[b]	22.6	20.9	19.6	18.1	20.2	22.1	21.4	20.2	20.5	20.3	19.1
Children[c]	59.9	56.4	58.2	68.1	63.8	60.9	59.2	61.2	61.2	61.3	60.9
School-age children[d]	44.4	44.2	49.2	51.6	47.3	46.3	47.4	47.8	47.8	46.9	46.6

[a]Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

[b]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[c]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[d]Households with at least one member age 5 to 17.

Sources: August 1980 - Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control samples.

Appendix B--Poverty income guidelines for 1988[a]

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	$ 5,500	$ 6,860	$ 6,310
2	7,400	9,240	8,500
3	9,300	11,620	10,690
4	11,200	14,000	12,880
5	13,100	16,380	15,070
6	15,000	18,760	17,260
7	16,900	21,140	19,450
8[b]	18,800	23,520	21,640

[a]Annual income for nonfarm families.

[b]For households with more than eight members, add $1,900 in the continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands; $2,380 in Alaska; and $2,190 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services.

Appendix C--Maximum allowable net monthly food stamp income eligibility standards in summer 1988[a]

Household size	Continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands	Alaska	Hawaii
1	$ 459	$ 572	$ 526
2	617	770	709
3	775	969	891
4	934	1,167	1,074
5	1,092	1,365	1,256
6	1,250	1,564	1,439
7	1,409	1,762	1,621
8[b]	1,567	1,960	1,804

[a]The food stamp net income standards are equal to the HHS poverty income guidelines (appendix A) divided by 12, rounded up to the nearest dollar.

[b]For households with more than eight members, add $158 in the continental United States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands; $198 in Alaska; and $183 in Hawaii for each additional person.

Source: 52 Federal Registry 19901, May 28, 1987.

Appendix D--Value of standard and maximum dependent care and excess shelter deductions in continental United States and outlying areas in summer 1988

Area	Standard	Dependent care	Excess shelter[a]	
			Prior Law[b]	P.L. 100-77
Continental United States	$102	$160	$152	$164
Alaska	175	160	261	285
Hawaii	144	160	217	234
Guam	205	160	185	199
Virgin Islands	90	160	112	121

[a]Limit on excess shelter deduction for households certified after 10/1/87 and with no member age 60 or more or no disabled member.

[b]These amounts went into effect October 1, 1987 for households whose certification period began before October 1, 1987. They remained in effect until the household was recertified or began a new certification period; then the amounts under P.L. 100-77 went into effect.

Source: 52 Federal Registry 36809, October 1, 1987.

Appendix E--Value of Maximum coupon allotment (Thrifty Food Plan) in continental United States and outlying areas in summer 1988

Household Size	Continental United States[a]	Alaska[b] Rural I	Rural II	Nenana	Urban	Hawaii	Guam	Virgin Islands
1	$ 87	$144	$176	$158	$113	$133	$128	$111
2	159	265	322	290	207	244	235	205
3	228	379	462	415	297	350	336	293
4	290	482	586	527	378	444	427	373
5	344	572	696	626	448	527	508	443
6	413	686	836	752	538	633	609	531
7	457	759	924	831	595	700	673	587
8[c]	522	867	1056	949	680	800	770	671

[a]Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

[b]Due to the unusual nature of Alaskan terrain and climate, areas outside major urban centers are less accessible to food distributors. Therefore, the value of the maximum coupon allotment accounts for this added expense by splitting the Thrifty Food Plan into four separate components: Rural I, Rural II, Nenana, and Urban.

[c]For households with more than eight members, add $65 in the continental United States, $100 in Hawaii, $90 in Guam, and $79 in the Virgin Islands for each additional person. In Alaska, add the following amounts for each area:

Area	Amount
Rural I	$108
Rural II	132
Nenana	119
Urban	85

Source: Program records, Food and Nutrition Service.

Appendix F--Source and reliability of estimates

Background

The summary tables are derived from a sample of households selected for review as part of the quality control system. This system is an ongoing review of food stamp household circumstances to determine (1) if households are eligible to participate or are receiving the correct coupon allotment, and (2) if household participation is correctly denied or terminated. The system is based on a national probability sample of approximately 70,000 participating food stamp households and a somewhat smaller number of denials and terminations every 12 months. The national sample of participating households collected in the Integrated Quality Control System (IQCS) is stratified by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Annual required State samples range from a minimum of 300 to a maximum of 2,400 reviews depending on the size of the State's caseload. State agencies select an independent sample each month that is generally proportional to the size of the monthly participating caseload.[1] The survey reported here relies primarily on the summer 1988 food stamp IQCS sample of participating households. To ensure an adequate sampling size, both July and August samples comprised the data which were collected for the summer of 1988. The 1987 and 1988 sample sizes were approximately the same.

Target Universe

The target universe of this study included all participating households (active cases) subject to quality control review in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The summer 1988 participating caseloads in Guam and the Virgin Islands were also sampled, but these results are not included in the tabulations.

While almost all participating food stamp households are included in the target universe, certain types not amenable to QC review are not. Specifically, the active universe includes all households receiving food stamps during a review period except those in which the participants died or moved outside the State, received benefits by a disaster certification authorized by FNS,

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[1]Several States have integrated the Food Stamp, AFDC, and Medicaid QC sample selection and review process. In these States, monthly sample size is not necessarily proportional to monthly caseload size.

are under investigation for Food Stamp Program fraud (including those with pending fraud hearings), and/or were appealing a notice of adverse action when the review date fell within the time period covered by continued participation pending a hearing, or received restored benefits in accordance with the State manual but who were otherwise ineligible. The sampling unit within the active universe each month is the food stamp household as specified in FNS regulations.

Weighting

The tabulations in this report are based on a total of 10,695 valid observations. The sample findings have been weighted by the number of participating households as reported to FNS. The case record weights of several States were adjusted to reflect the disproportionately stratified QC sample designs in those States.

Income Decision Rule

Several household-level income and deduction variables are both reported and can be calculated by summing across person-level variables. Gross income is the key variable, since the earned income and excess shelter deductions and net income depend on gross income, and benefit levels depend on net income. The data on which this report is based were edited to achieve internal consistency. The mean values for selected variables broken out by their calculated or reported values are presented in table F-1.

Comparison to Participation Data

The following data present a comparison of the quality control sample-based estimates to aggregate program participation data (excluding Guam and the Virgin Islands):

	Program data	Summer 1988 IQCS sample
Number of households	7,015,610	7,014,924
Number of participants	18,358,461	18,545,385
Value of benefits	$909,496,591	$890,646,733
Average household size	2.62	2.64
Average bonus per person	$49.41	$48.03

Completion Rates

Failure to complete reviews for all cases selected subject to review can bias the sample results if the characteristics of unreviewed households are significantly different from those of reviewed households. While there are no direct measures of such differences, the ratio of valid observations to sample cases selected for review provides an indication of the magnitude of any potential bias. The expected number of cases subject to review in the sample is based on one-sixth of all cases reported as subject to review during October 1987 - September 1988. However, since summer caseloads are smaller than caseloads during other times of the year, this approach probably results in a slight overestimation of the total expected number and thus a slight underestimation of the completion rate. The number of cases selected subject to review, the number of valid observations, and the estimated completion rates are shown below:

Number of cases selected subject to review	11,839
Number of cases completed	10,695
Estimated completion rate	91.2%

Even though possibly an underestimate, this completion rate compares very favorably with other surveys of this nature.

Appendix Table F-1--Comparison of mean calculated and reported values for selected variables of participating households

	All households	Households with Earnings[a]	Elderly[b]	Children[c]	Disabled[d]
		(AVERAGES)			
Gross income					
Calculated	$433	$642	$426	$501	$507
Reported	432	644	426	500	505
Net income					
Calculated	242	355	241	295	322
Reported	233	352	235	286	305
Total deduction[e]					
Calculated	211	298	196	221	189
Reported	209	285	196	217	189
Benefit					
Calculated	127	150	48	171	77
Reported	127	149	49	171	79
		(PERCENTAGES)			
Percent with zero gross income					
Calculated	6.6	0.0	1.3	5.0	0.0
Reported	6.1	0.2	1.2	3.9	0.1
Percent with zero net income					
Calculated	18.3	11.8	8.7	13.3	3.8
Reported	19.0	12.0	9.0	13.5	4.9
Percent with minimum benefit[f]					
Calculated	7.6	3.2	27.6	0.6	14.5
Reported	6.8	3.2	25.4	0.5	12.1

[a]Earned income includes wages, salaries, self-employment, farm income, and earned income tax credit.

[b]Households with at least one member age 60 or more.

[c]Households with at least one member age 17 or less.

[d]Households with SSI income and no member age 60 or more.

[e]Includes earned income, dependent care, excess shelter, medical, and standard deductions. The value of the standard deduction and the limit on the excess shelter deduction vary depending on region (see appendix D). Deductions shown are those to which households are entitled. Some of the deductions may not have been used before a household reaches zero net income status.

[f]Minimum benefit is $10 for one- or two-person households.

Source: Summer 1988 Food Stamp Quality Control sample.

Appendix G--Sampling error of estimates

The estimates of the characteristics of food stamp households contained in this report are based on a sample of households and are therefore subject to statistical sampling error. This appendix presents estimates of the statistical sampling errors associated with certain key variables included in the tables in this report. In addition, it outlines methods for estimating the standard errors of other variables for which standard errors have not been directly calculated.

Standard Errors and Confidence Intervals

One important indicator of the magnitude of the possible sampling error associated with a given estimate is its standard error. Standard errors measure the variation in estimated values which would be observed if multiple replications of the sample were drawn. The magnitude of the standard errors depend on (1) the degree of variation in the variable within the overall population from which the sample has been drawn; (2) the design of the sample, including such issues as stratification and sampling probabilities; and (3) the size of the sample on which the estimate is based.

The standard error of estimates of proportions, s_p, based on simple random samples is given by the formula:

$$(1)\ s_p = \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)}$$

where p is the sample estimate of the proportion and n is the sample size.

Standard errors of estimated numbers of households based on simple random samples are:

$$(2)\ s_N = N\sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)}$$

where N is the number of households in the population.

However, the formulas for the standard errors of simple random samples do not necessarily provide an accurate estimate for more complex stratified samples such as the stratified sample design used for this study. In this appendix, estimates produced by the formulas above are referred to as "naive standard errors." More accurate standard errors are provided for key estimates by

directly calculating their standard errors through a replicate method as discussed below.[1]

Standard errors can be used to construct confidence intervals for estimated variables. A confidence interval is a range of values that will contain the true value of an estimated characteristic with a known probability. For instance, a 95-percent confidence interval extends approximately two standard errors above and below the estimated value for a characteristic and 95-percent of all confidence intervals will contain the true value.

The following discussion presents, for a selected set of key estimates, standard errors estimated using the replication method. It then presents a simple method for approximating standard errors of estimated numbers of households and percentages when individual standard errors have not been estimated.

Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Households

The standard errors for selected estimates of FSP households are shown in table G-1. These standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent confidence interval for the estimated number of households with a particular characteristic. For example, the estimate in table G-1 of the number of elderly households with zero net income has a standard error of 12 thousand and therefore the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 93 thousand to 141 thousand, around the point estimate of 117 thousand.[2] With such a confidence interval, 95-percent of all intervals constructed in this fashion will contain the true value of the variable.

For standard errors not shown in table G-1, the approximate standard error, S_E, of an estimated number can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(3) \quad S_E = s_N \times d \times f$$

where s_N is the naive standard error from either equation (2) above or from table G-2, d is the average design effect of 1.2, and f is an adjustment factor from table G-5 that potentially can

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[1]Standard errors have been estimated using the replicate sample method described in Leslie Kish, Survey Sampling, 1965, pp. 127-128. In implementing this approach, the samples used in the estimation work were divided into 40 replicate subsamples.

[2]Calculated by rounding to the nearest thousand; (117 - (2 x 12)) = 93, and (117 + (2 x 12)) = 141.

improve the approximation by partially accounting for the variation in design effects across subgroups of the sample.[3] The average design effect is the average increase in the size of the standard error estimated by the replicate method over that of the naive standard error appropriate for a simple random sample. Use of the adjustment factor f will generally improve the approximation when the base of the estimated percentage or number and the characteristic used in defining the percentage or total are quite similar to the bases and characteristics shown in table G-5. In other cases, f should be ignored by setting it to 1.0.

For example, to obtain the approximate standard error for the number of households containing an elderly person with zero net income, the first step is to obtain the size of the estimate. From table 45 of the detailed tables, we see that 117 thousand elderly households have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from either equation (2) or less accurately from table G-2. Using equation (2), the value is 8.08 thousand households.[4] Multiplying 8.08 times the design factor d of 1.2 produces the first approximation of 9.70. In this case, the same base for the number of households (i.e., with elderly) and the same characteristic (i.e., zero net income) are defined in table G-5. Consequently, using the f factor from table G-5 should improve the approximation. Multiplying the first approximation of 9.70 times the adjustment factor of 1.23 from table G-5 produces a second approximation of 11.93. In this case, the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table G-1, 12 thousand. The second approximation happened to be underestimated in this case, but is closer than the naive standard error of 8.08 thousand (the naive standard error does not account for sample design effects) and closer than the estimate based only on the average design effect (9.70).

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[3]The average design effect is the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells of table G-5.

[4]Calculated as;

$$1339 \times \sqrt{((117/1339) \times (1 - (117/1339))/2188)} = 8.08$$

Where 1339 is the estimated number of elderly households, 117 is the estimated number of elderly with zero gross incomes and 2188 is the sample size of elderly households. Table G-4 is accurate only for the full sample size of all food stamp households.

Standard Errors of Estimated Percentages

The standard errors for selected estimated percentages of FSP households are shown in table G-3. As discussed above, these standard errors can be used to compute the 95-percent interval for the estimated percentage. For example, the estimate in table G-3 of the percentage of households with children with zero gross income has a standard error of .36, and therefore, the 95-percent confidence interval extends from 4.3 percent to 5.7 percent--around the point estimate of 5.0 percent.[5]

For estimated percentages not shown in table G-3, the approximate standard error, S_E, can be obtained by the use of the formula:

$$(4) \quad S_E = s_P \times d \times f$$

where s_P is the naive standard error from equation (1) above or less accurately from table G-4, d is the average design effect of 1.2, and f is an adjustment factor from table G-5 to improve the approximation as discussed above.

For example, to obtain an approximate estimate of the standard error for the percentage of households with children who have zero net income, the first step is to obtain the estimated percentage and the size of the base for the estimated percentage. From table 51 of the detailed tables, we see that 4,269 thousand households have children. From table 53 of Chapter 4, we see that 13.3 percent of households with children have zero net income. The next step is to obtain the naive standard error from equation (1). Using equation (1) the square root of (.133 x .867)/(6542-1) = .420 percent. Multiplying the naive standard error of .420 times the average design factor of 1.2 times the specific adjustment factor of .95 from table G-5 produces an adjusted approximation of .479. In this case, the approximation can be compared with the specific standard error estimate from table G-3, 0.48. Thus, this approximation is quite close to the actual estimated standard error.

Standard Errors for Estimated Means

The standard errors for selected estimated means are provided in table G-6. These standard errors can be used to compute a 95-percent confidence interval. For example, the standard error for average gross income for all FSP households as shown in table G-6 is 2.54, and its mean is $433. Therefore, a 95-percent

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[5]Calculated by rounding to the nearest tenth of a percent as; (5.0 - (2 x .36)) = 4.3, and (5.0 + (2 x .36)) = 5.7.

confidence interval extends between approximately $428 and $438.[6]

Generalized approximation methods such as those used above work well for standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages since the standard errors depend only on the sample size, the estimated proportion, and the design effects. Generalized methods are less appropriate for standard errors of means since the standard error depends on the variance as well as the sample size and design effects. However, a rough approximation of the likely magnitude of standard errors of means not included in table G-6 can be obtained from table G-7 which shows the standard error as a percent of the mean value for all FSP households and successively smaller subsets of households. In this table, the approximate standard errors as a percent of the mean value are shown as the average across the 12 variables from table G-6. The lowest and highest values across the 12 variables for each subset of households are also shown to give an indication of the quality of the approximation provided by the standard error expressed as a percent of the mean value. These standard errors include the design effects as they were estimated using a replication method.

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[6]Rounding to the nearest dollar, (433 - (2 * 2.54)) = 428 and (433 + (2 * 2.54)) = $438.

Appendix Table G-1--Standard Errors of Estimated Numbers of Food Stamp Households: summer 1988[a]
(thousands)

Base of estimated number	Households with								
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School-age children	Disabled	Sample size
All FSP households	24.41	28.81	20.83	36.52	28.49	35.03	44.80	22.21	10,695
With elderly	3.70	12.00	17.90	6.69	NA	10.03	8.76	NA	2,188
Without elderly	23.62	25.94	12.20	37.69	NA	34.21	40.76	21.88	8,507
With children	15.60	20.53	5.01	32.66	10.35	NA	31.87	13.54	6,542
With schoolchildren	10.24	18.03	4.15	28.31	9.44	NA	NA	12.07	4,963
Without children	15.09	23.86	21.55	18.74	27.87	NA	NA	14.78	4,153
With earnings	NA	12.88	7.02	NA	7.33	17.51	19.11	9.27	2,234
With disabled	NA	4.77	8.32	7.49	NA	9.90	9.06	NA	961

[a]Standard errors computed as number of households in estimated base times the standard errors of the estimated percentages from table G-3. Standard errors in table G-3 were estimated with the replication method.

Appendix Table G-2--Naive estimate standard errors of estimated numbers of food stamp households (thousands)

Size of estimate	Naive est. of standard error[a]
10	2.56
50	5.71
100	8.04
250	12.58
500	17.45
1,000	23.72
2,000	30.62
3,000	33.56
4,000	33.58
5,000	30.69
6,000	23.86
6,500	17.69

[a]Applicable when the base of the estimated number is all food stamp households.

Naive standard error = $N \sqrt{p(1-p)/(n-1)}$

where: N = the number of FSP households (7,015 thousand)
p = the size of the estimate divided by N
n = the size of sample (10,695)

Appendix Table G-3--Standard Errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households: summer 1988[a]

Base of estimated percentage	Households with							
	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Elderly	Children	School-age children	Disabled
All FSP households	0.348	0.411	0.297	0.521	0.406	0.499	0.639	0.317
With elderly	0.276	0.896	1.337	0.500	NA	0.749	0.655	NA
Without elderly	0.416	0.457	0.215	0.664	NA	0.603	0.718	0.386
With children	0.365	0.481	0.117	0.765	0.242	NA	0.747	0.317
With schoolchildren	0.313	0.552	0.127	0.867	0.289	NA	NA	0.370
Without children	0.550	0.869	0.785	0.683	1.015	NA	NA	0.538
With earnings	NA	0.919	0.501	NA	0.524	1.250	1.364	0.661
With disabled	NA	0.808	1.407	1.268	NA	1.675	1.534	NA

[a]Standard errors were estimated using the replication method for the Summer 1988 food stamp quality control sample.

Appendix Table G-4--Naive estimate of standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households[a]

Base of est. percentage	Estimated percentage			
	5 or 95	10 or 90	25 or 75	50
10	5.58	7.68	11.09	12.81
50	2.50	3.44	4.96	5.73
100	1.77	2.43	3.51	4.05
250	1.12	1.54	2.22	2.56
500	0.79	1.09	1.57	1.81
1,000	0.56	0.77	1.11	1.28
2,000	0.39	0.54	0.78	0.91
3,000	0.32	0.44	0.64	0.74
4,000	0.28	0.38	0.55	0.64
5,000	0.25	0.34	0.50	0.57
6,000	0.23	0.31	0.45	0.52
7,000	0.21	0.29	0.42	0.48

[a]Applicable when the base of the estimated number is all food stamp households.

Naive standard error = $\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}$ where p equals estimated percentage divided by 100, and n is the sample size of 10,695 for all food stamp households.

Appendix Table G-5--Adjustment Factors for standard errors of estimated percentages of food stamp households: summer 1988[a]

Base of estimated number	Zero gross income	Zero net income	Minimum benefits	Earned income	Households with Elderly	Children	School-age children	Disabled	Average factor
All FSP households	1.194	0.908	0.957	1.113	0.884	0.875	1.095	0.974	1.000
With elderly	0.980	1.229	1.157	0.986	NA	1.080	0.999	NA	1.072
Without elderly	1.176	0.863	0.977	1.191	NA	1.040	1.103	0.963	1.045
With children	1.132	0.947	1.017	1.156	1.047	NA	1.177	0.934	1.059
With schoolchildren	0.943	0.997	0.958	1.119	1.020	NA	NA	0.884	0.987
Without children	1.012	1.055	1.078	1.240	1.087	NA	NA	0.851	1.054
With earnings	NA	1.110	1.148	NA	1.056	1.254	1.128	1.368	1.177
With disabled	NA	1.080	1.024	1.155	NA	0.879	0.824	NA	0.992
Average factor	1.073	1.024	1.039	1.137	1.019	1.025	1.054	0.996	1.048

[a]The adjustment factors are defined A/B; where A = the ratio of the standard error computed by the replication method to the naive standard error for the specific cell of the table, and B = the ratio of the average standard error computed by the replication method to the average naive standard error across all cells.

Appendix Table G-6--Standard Errors of Estimated Means: summer 1988[a]

Base of estimated mean	Gross income	Net income	Benefits	All deduct.	Total resources	Household size	Certification period	Earnings[b]	AFDC & GA[b]	SSI[b]	Dependent care cost[b]	Shelter deduction[b]
	Households with											
All FSP households	2.538	2.032	0.974	1.204	6.950	0.017	0.045	10.298	3.334	4.060	3.470	0.923
With elderly	4.144	4.948	1.603	4.066	31.465	0.025	0.071	31.222	11.880	5.489	2.550	4.140
Without elderly	3.276	2.614	1.113	1.255	4.327	0.020	0.044	9.890	3.340	5.725	3.524	0.844
With children	3.944	3.421	1.366	1.532	11.590	0.024	0.049	9.150	3.929	8.438	3.488	1.161
With schoolchildren	4.946	4.540	1.610	1.680	17.880	0.033	0.060	11.115	4.765	8.660	4.468	1.340
Without children	3.141	2.848	0.766	2.156	8.520	0.009	0.073	13.840	4.410	4.317	4.988	2.118
With earnings	8.520	6.637	2.780	2.733	13.450	0.052	0.095	10.298	8.760	14.390	3.500	2.090
With disabled	7.138	8.050	3.318	3.717	15.550	0.059	0.121	36.119	10.194	5.720	c	4.700

[a]Standard errors were estimated using the replication method.

[b]For households with a nonzero amount.

[c]Sample size too small to make an estimate.

Appendix Table G-7--Range of standard errors of mean amounts expressed as a percent of the mean amount[a]

Number of households in base of mean (thousands)	Standard error as percent of mean amount		
	Average[b]	Lowest[c]	Highest[a]
7,015 (all FSP households)	1.67	0.46	7.52
4,269 (households with children)	2.52	0.54	16.06
1,401 (households with earnings)	2.91	0.92	11.13
591 (households with disabled)	4.26	0.00	14.10

[a]Standard errors were from table G-6 and mean amounts from applicable text tables.

[b]Average standard error across all 12 variables in table G-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

[c]Lowest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table G-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

[d]Lowest of the standard errors across all 12 variables in table G-6 expressed as a percent of the mean amount.

Form Approved
OMB No. 0960-0313

(For Optional State Use)

INTEGRATED REVIEW SCHEDULE

PRIVACY ACT/PAPERWORK NOTICE ACT: This report is required under provisions of 45 CFR 205.40 (AFDC), 7 CFR 275.14 (Food Stamp), and 42 CFR 431.800 (Medicaid). This information is needed for the review of State performance in determining recipient eligibility. The information is used to determine State compliance, and failure to report may result in a finding of non-compliance.

I. REVIEW SUMMARY

1. Review Number
1a. Case Number
2. State and Local Agency Codes
3. Sample Month and Year
4. Stratum
5. Review Type
6. Disposition: AFDC/ADULT, FS, MA
7. Review Findings: AFDC/ADULT, FS
8. Amount of Error: AFDC/ADULT, FS

II. CASE INFORMATION

	9. Most Recent Opening	9a. Prior Assistance	10. Most Recent Action	11. Type of Action	12. No. of Case Members	13. Liquid Assets	14. Real Property (Excl. Home)	15. Countable Vehicle Assets	16. Other Non-Liquid Assets
ADULT									
AFDC									
FS									
MA									

CASE INFORMATION - AFDC/ADULT

17. Monthly Payment Standard
18. Sample Month's Payment
19. Restricted Payment Status
20. Unborn Child
21. Shelter Arrangement
22. Gross Countable Income
23. Work-Related Expenses
24. Child or Dependent Care Disregard
25. First $30 and 1/3 of Remainder
26. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - FOOD STAMP

27. Case Classification
28. Months in Certif. Period
29. Coupon Allotment
30. Exped. Service
31. Auth. Rep.
32. Gross Countable Income
33. Earned Income Deduction
34. Medical Cost
35. Shelter Cost
36. Dependent Care Cost
37. Net Countable Income

CASE INFORMATION - MEDICAID

38. Medical Expenses Used to Meet Spenddown: Type, Amount
39. Gross Countable Income
40. Net Countable Income

Form SSA-4357 (10-85) (Prior Edition May Be Used until Completion of 6/86 Review Period)
Form HCFA-301 (10-85)
Form FNS-380-1 (10-85)

REVIEW NUMBER	(For Optional State Use)

III. DETAILED PERSON - LEVEL INFORMATION

41. Person Number	42. Food Stamp Case A/NL	43. AFDC/MA Case A/NL	44. Relationship to Head of Household	45. Age	46. Sex	47. Race	48. Citizenship Status	49. Education Level	50. WIN and FS Work Reg.	51. Employment Status	52. Institutional Status

IV. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME, BY HOUSEHOLD MEMBER AND TYPE AND AMOUNT OF INCOME

53. Person Number	54. Type of Income	55. Amount of Income	56. Type of Income	57. Amount of Income	58. Type of Income	59. Amount of Income	60. Type of Income	61. Amount of Income

Form SSA-4357 (10-86)
Form HCFA-301 (10-86)
Form FNS-380-1 (10-86)

REVIEW NUMBER	(For Optional State Use)

V. ELIGIBILITY REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

62. Eligibility Coverage Codes		63. Initial Case Eligibility Status	64. Initial Case Liability Error	65. Amount of Excess Resources
Agency	OC			

VI. DETAILED ERROR FINDINGS

66. Program Identification	67. Error Finding		68. Case Members with Errors (MA)	69. Element	70. Nature Code	71. Agency or Client	72. Dollar Amount	73. Discovery	74. Verification	75. Occurrence	
										Date	Time Period

76. Ineligible Persons with Federal Matching (AFDC Overpayment Case)	Counted	Not Counted

REVIEW NUMBER	(For Optional State Use)

VII. PAYMENT REVIEW INFORMATION - MEDICAID

77. Dollar Amount of Paid Claims	78. Final Case Elig. Status	79. Revised Initial Case Liability Error	80. Spend down Months	81. Total Claims Used to Offset Initial LU Errors	82. Final Dollar Amount of Case Liability Errors	83. Final Dollar Amount of Case Eligibility Errors

VIII. OPTIONAL - FOR STATE SYSTEMS ONLY

1.

2.

3.

4.

Appendix I--List of previous reports in this series

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Winter 1988. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1990

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1987. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1990

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1986. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1988

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, Summer 1985. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1987

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1984. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, February 1983. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1982. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1981. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1984

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, August 1980. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1981

Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, November 1979. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1981

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Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1976. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Analysis and Evaluation; 1977

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